ダンジョンに出会いを求めるのは間違っているだろうか

大森藤ノ
OMORI FUJINO
イラスト ヤスダスズヒト
YASUDA SUZUHITO

GA文庫

ダンジョンに出会いを求めるのは間違っているだろうか 下

大森藤ノ
OMORI FUJINO
イラスト ヤスダスズヒト
YASUDA SUZUHITO

GA文庫

著者

大森藤ノ（おおもり ふじの）

作家と名乗れる立場になって日に日に「生む苦しみ」を味わうようになりました。同時に今までは「生む苦しみ」が足りていなかったと気付かされることもあります。勉強でもスポーツでも、何かを生んで何かを得るって大変なことです。

でも目標があるなら、歯を食いしばって頑張っていかなきゃ。一応、この作品もそんなお話になっています。

よろしくお願いします！

イラスト

ヤスダスズヒト（やすだ すずひと）

三重県生まれ。主な作品に「夜桜四重奏～ヨザクラカルテット～（講談社刊）」、「デュラララ!!（電撃文庫刊）」挿画、など他多数。

公式サイト http://www.suzuhito.com/

ダンジョンに出会いを求めるのは間違っているだろうか
大森藤ノ
GA文庫

ダンジョンに出会いを求めるのは間違っているだろうか

大森藤ノ
OHMORI FUJINO

イラストレーション ヤスダスズヒト
YASUDA SUZUHITO

Loki
Freya
Hestia
Hephaistos

3 Prologue – Is it Wrong to Expect for Encounters in the Dungeon?
11 Chapter 1 – The World, Reality and Aspirations
05 Chapter 2 – And So I Ran
99 Chapter 3 – Night Before Awakening
119 Chapter 4 – So I Wanted to Become Your Strength
169 Chapter 5 – The Goddess's Prank
255 Chapter 6 – Bump of Chicken
319 Epilogue – Familia's Myth

ダンジョンに出会いを求めるのは間違っているだろうか

Synopsis

The Labyrinth City Orario——This was a large city that has a huge labyrinth underneath (Commonly known as the "Dungeon"). The excitement from the unknown name, the brilliant and illustrious honor and romance with cute girls. Inside the city where dreams and desires are waiting, a boy meets a tiny "Goddess".

"Okay, Bell, come with me! I'll perform the <Familia> ceremony for you!"

"Yes! I will become stronger!"

After being given the cold shoulder from all the <Familias>, the boy who was determined to become an Adventurer, and a Goddess with zero members, had a fated encounter.

This is the boy's journey that the Goddess records.

——<The Familia's Myth>——

プロローグ
ダンジョンに出会いを求めるのは間違っているだろうか

This epub was brought to you by Hendricksen-sama of https://

hendricksensama.wordpress.com You can go there and post your request for a certain light/web novel and specific format you want me to upload.

Dungeon ni Deai wo Motomeru no wa Machiagetteiru Darou ka

Volume 1

Written by:

Omori Fujino

Illustrated by:

Yasuda Suzuhito

Prologue: Is it Wrong to Expect for Encounters in the Dungeon?

There is a seemingly infinite dungeon with many and many floors. Inside there are a variety of heinous monsters.

I, together with those adventurers seeking fame and fortune and risking their own lives, registered my own name at the guild, and then began to adventure.

With a sword in my own hand and swiftly emerge abruptly. Then in the end, I would have an encounter with a girl that has been attacked by those monsters.

Endless Screams. The monster's savage roars. Just in the nick of time, suddenly the sound of a swift and sharp sword, piercing through the air, would emerge.

The monster was defeated. What was left was the beautiful girl remaining seated on the ground, while I stand gloriously.

Her cheeks would be slightly dyed red, and in those beautiful, tearful eyes, what was projected was only my appearance. A faint love will awaken in her heart.

At times I would talk to the cute shop personnel in a restaurant about my adventures that day, forming a closer relationship.

At times I would protect a female elf from savage adventurers.

At times I would also lend assistance to the Amazon warriors when they were in trouble, forming a party together to adventure.

At times I would get too close towards a girl,and the other girls that witnessed it would be jealous.

At times At times At times At times……

This was a completely normal way of thinking for a male child, who grew up aspiring towards the heroic adventure.

Wanting to have a closer relationship with cute girls. Wanting to interact with beautiful ladies from a different race.

Holding to this somewhat improper, or perhaps immature thoughts. Isn't this a normal personality for a young male?

Can't I have an encounter in the dungeon, correction, search for a harem, is this really wrong?

Conclusion:

I was completely wrong.

"Wuaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah"

"Huaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah"

I guess this is the result for an adventurer like me who is holding such improper and immature thoughts. I, am about to die.

To be more precise, I am currently being chased by a monster with a human body and a bull's head, a "Minotaur".

This monster was completely immune to my attacks, who was only level 1. I was about to be eaten by it.

I entered a dead end. That's right, I was at death's door.

So this is my fate for being obsessed with such a shallow delusion, becoming a monster's food, I am such a fool.

I am such a fool for expecting a fateful encounter.

The idea of becoming rich and getting a crowd of wives and concubines was naturally just a dream.

At the instant when I first began to prepare and search for an encounter in the dungeon where numerous people die daily, I was already finished.

9

Ah, I really want to go back! Go back to the time and punch the me, who had just become of age and was signing the registration document with sparking eyes at the guild.

No matter from what physical angle or from the angle of my fate, these things were already impossible.

“Vuumun”

“Huh”?

The Minotaur’s hoof.

Although it did not directly kick my back, every step it takes crushes the earth,so even the location where I was standing was being affected by the impacts.

I wasn’t able to stand still and could only roll around the floor of the dungeon.

“Fuuah”

“Uwaaaaah”

I would actually be sitting on the floor, when my life tragically ends.

The wish of encountering cute girls would be completely destroyed. Looks like from the very beginning, I did not have the qualifications to become a hero from the fairy tales.

My back hit the wall. There was no path to retreat.

It passed through dozens of paths and finally managed to chase after me. Forcing me into this square-shaped space.

(Ah…! I’m dead.)

My teeth constantly chattered, tears also flowed down in torrents.

My own skin could completely feel the deep and heavy breath exuded from the Minotaur.

10

Raising my head and staring at the muscular body that was one to two times larger than me. As if I completely gave up, my face expressed an completely disgusting slight smile.

——In the end, I did not have an encounter with a girl.

Just as my unrepenting brain spouted these incorrigible thoughts that drove me to my death, the Minotaur that was slowly waving his hoof appeared in front of my eyes.

In the next instant, a line passed through the monster's body.

"Eeeh?"

"Vuo"

Those were the dumb sounds issued by me and the Minotaur.

The flowing line did not just pass through the body, it also ran through the thick chest, hoof, then the upper wrist, thighs, lower body, shoulders and finally ran to the next, all in one go.

At the end, I could only see a silver light.

The result was, the monster that I completely could not phase, instantly turned into pieces of meat.

"Gubuh?!Vuaaaaaaaah…."

Painful screams echoed throughout the room before its death.

Following the carved lines, the Minotaur's body also fell down in parts. Along with the blood spraying out, the dark red liquid gushed out, it completely collapsed in the next moment.

A large amount of blood spattered onto my body, as if I had taken a shower. I was completely frozen stiff.

"Are you alright"?

12

What came after the bull-headed monster was a girl that could have been mistaken for a goddess.

Her slender body was wrapped in blue lightweight armor.

The flexible limbs, that extended out from her clothes, were also dazzlingly beautiful.

Considering her slim soft body, her chest was abnormally filled based on my opinion. Wearing an emblem on her silver breastplate, and the same colored gloves and accessories also bore an emblem. Blood was trickling down from the tip of her sword that was pointing to the ground.

Her blond hair extended straight down to her shoulders, it held a shine that would not lose to a large amount of golden treasures.

On top of having a body that other females would be jealous of, she had a very cute baby face that everyone would like.

The color of her eyes , that looked at me, was also golden.

(……)

——A blonde swordsman wrapped in blue equipment with golden eyes.

Even I, who was still only a Level 1 and a novice adventurer, knew who the person in front of me was.

It was a top adventurer belonging to the ＜Loki Familia＞

Among the human, no, even among the females of all the races, she would be considered to be one of the strongest as a Level 5.

＜Sword Princess＞ Aizu Wallenstein.

“Excuse me….are you alright?”

I’m not alright.

I’m not alright at all.

13

To my heart that was currently constantly jumping, as if it was about to shatter, you cannot consider it alright at all.

My cheeks were dyed red, and the tearful eyes that were projecting the figure of the other party, a faint…no, a strong love was awakening.

My wild ideas became real, the roles were reversed, and my thoughts had reached the summit.

At that moment, she had stolen my heart.

Was asking for a chance encounter in the dungeon wrong?

Re-conclusion:

I was definitely not wrong.

1章 世界と現実と煙悩

Chapter 1: The World, Reality and Aspirations

“Einaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!”

“Eh?”

As a window receptionist of the dungeon management, Eina Tulle shifted her focus from the book in her hand and lifted up her head.

She had a pair of slender pointy ears and clear emerald-colored eyes. Her shoulder-length brown hair had a beautiful sheen. This beautiful appearance is not the same type as the elves that seemed to be pure and flawless, but rather a natural type. She was wearing a guild uniform on her slim body, a black top pants of the same color, making her extremely beautiful.

Her disposition as a professional woman made others feel that she was quite approachable. The truth is that this young female was a mix between a human and an elf.

As a receptionist, her afternoon wasn’t too busy since the adventurers were basically all inside the dungeon at that time. So there will be some spare time for her to read books. She lifted her head and noticed who had called her.

(Looks like he was safe today as well…)

It was something that occurred almost two weeks ago.

At that time, that young boy, with shining eyes, came to the guild to go through the procedures.

She was acting as an adviser for dungeon strategy. That boy was still only 14 years old, and although “Adventurer” is a job that did not ask for race, nor their gender and age, but in this profession, many people die accidentally. At his age, he is still 16

a child. But he deliberately rushed into such a dangerous area and she did not know what expression she gave him at that time.

Maybe it was because she was responsible for him, but Eina missed that kid from time to time. When she confirmed that the boy was still

alive, her face eased slightly. She remembered that he was called Bell Cranel.

She lifted up her glasses and turned her head towards the source of the voice.

“Einaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!”

A figure of a boy covered with black blood appeared in her field of vision.

“Waaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!?”

“Please tell me Aizu Wallenstein’s information!”

× × ×

“Bell-kun, you… If you are stained with blood when you return, you should at least first take a shower…”

“Sorry…”

Listening to Eina, I bowed down my head in embarrassment.

We are currently inside a small room that is separated specially within the guild hall.

Eina and I sat facing each other and were separated by a table.

On the opposite of me, who had just cleaned up his body, Eina apparently sighed.

“You actually were able to bring that bloody smell and absolutely horrifying appearance directly across the streets from the dungeon to here. I really have doubts about your brain.”

“About this.”

17

After that was said by the beautiful Eina, my heart seemed to have been stabbed by a knife. Tears also emerged in my eyes.

Eina gave a wry smile, pointed a finger at my nose, smiled and said: “You should pay better attention next time, okay?” Yes Yes, I nodded

heavily.

“Also next is… you just said you wanted information about Aizu Wallenstein right.

Why?”

“Mm, about this…”

My face flushed before I explained the thing.

I had dashed down to the fifth floor from the second floor where I usually stayed.

The instant that I had entered I met a Minotaur and was being chased by it.

Just when I was forced into a dead end, I was saved by the ＜Sword Princess＞ Aizu Wallenstein.

At the time I was still very unstable, and just when I was preparing to say my thanks, the instant I saw she held out her hand, my head went blank —— A swelling sense of shame and nervousness confused me —— and I immediately rushed away at full speed.

While listening beside me, Eina’s appearance changed more and more as she followed my words.

“—— Ah, why did you not follow what I said! You not only entered the dungeon by yourself, but you also stubbornly went to the lower floors! Didn’t I tell you many times? Taking risks is absolutely, ABSOLUTELY, not allowed!”

“Yesss…”

————＜Adventurers must not go on an adventure＞————

This was Eina’s opening statement. Although judging from the text it may seem contradictory, but its true meaning is that ＜You must always be careful and well-prepared and you must always place safety as priority＞.

Especially for a newcomer like me, it is something that I must always bear in mind, because this stage is where the most deaths occur in an adventurer’s career.

Meeting a LV. 2 Minotaur on the fifth floor is something that no one can imagine.

From common knowledge, this monster should only come out from the fifteenth floor or below. Eina said this had a feeling of “Did something happen in the dungeon.”

…Really. If that person did not exist, the me right now would have already died.

Just by imagining this, my spine trembled, followed by a strong feeling of urinating.

I swore to my heart that I would absolutely never forget about the things that Eina had mentioned.

“Fuu…Seems like you always have a fantasy regarding the dungeon. What you did today, I guess that is also the reason right?”

“Ah ha ha…”

Correct. I wanted to pursue an encounter with the opposite gender so I wanted to take a little bit of risk…But if I directly said it out, I will surely be hit.

Originally, I wanted to become an adventurer only because I had always had an aspiration of having an encounter with beautiful girls I have never seen before — — Kind of like those hero comics where they have a fateful encounter——The motive was really that impure. Even when I was going through the procedures in the guild, Eina stared at me doubtfully for a while because she saw me exude a suspicious and passionate atmosphere, although she could not capture what I thought in my heart.

But from today on, it is different. I want to completely throw away the impure motives, the reason for entering the dungeon will become very simple.

That is to have an encounter with that person.

“That…There is…The thing about Wallenstein…”

“Ah…As a member of the guild, I cannot leak any adventurer’s information…But I can tell you what is already well-known by

others.” She first gave off a short intro, then Eina began to speak. Somehow, it always feels that she was rather intimate. Perhaps it is because I am still a newcomer.

19

Real Name, Aizu Wallenstein. A swordswomen. Core member of the <Loki Family>.

Her swordplay is unmistakably at the peak of all the adventurers. She had wiped out a large group of LV. 5 monsters by herself. So amongst the adventurers, she also has a title, <Sword Princess>. It seems that name has also spread among the Gods, so she has also obtained the praise of <Aizu is unparalleled in the world>.

She also taught a lesson to those approaching her with impure desires, or rather, she completely crushed them.

At this point of time, it seems like she had broken the record of 1000 failed courtships.

“What else is there? The rest is almost all about her appearance and looks.”

“Isn’t that only from the perspective of an adventurer…how about her hobbies or favorite food, and there was something that you didn’t say…”

Seeing my face turning red and hearing my timid voice, Eina’s eyes twinkled two or three times.

“What, it can’t be that Bell-kun fell in love with Wallenstein right?”

“No, Well…Ummm, Yes…”

“Hahaah. You can’t help it. Even I from the same gender would sometimes freeze when I see her.”

Eina gave a wry smile and lifted the red tea to her mouth. A sequential action, yet it was extremely elegant.

This person, who praised Wallenstein, actually also had a high popularity among the adventurers.

With gentle and crystal eyes, a pointed chin and a beautiful straight

nose. She has all the conditions necessary for a beauty. It is said that there are many individuals that like her. When I knew that Eina was going to become my adviser, I was extremely happy.

As a half-breed, she has the beauty of the elf's typical appearance characteristics.

But at the same time, she had an unexpected affinity for care. A lot of people have fallen for the error gap between this impression and reality.

After Eina thought for a while, she said to my ear. "Wallenstein currently is not dating anyone."

I could not help but do a victory gesture.

"About hobbies aside from ***that***, I honestly have not heard anything regarding it…Ah ah. Nono. This is unrelated to my my service! I am not a love expert!"

"J…Just what is ***that***!"

"No~! Okay, if there isn't any problem, go back go back!"

As if it was to get me out, Eina first stood up and urged me. My feeble protests completely did not work and the two of us returned to the guild's hall.

This hall that was built with white marble was very impressive. Right now there is almost no one here, there are only images of adventurers and gods on the wall that had a bit of existence.

"Eina is really mean…"

"This…You are currently an adventurer. There are still many, many things you have to pay attention to okay?"

"Mmm…"

About that, even I know about it.

The current me won't be able to protect anyone. In order to survive to the next day, there was no other way but to use this body and enter

the dungeon. If I do not develop an awareness for saving money, it is not acceptable.

For the people who may or may not have people to cherish…No, there is Kami-sama! In fact, I completely do not have the skill to feel strongly about the matter concerning about Wallenstein.

21

“You have already obtained a <Grace> from a god besides from Loki. So if you were to get too close to her, who is a key member of the <Loki Family>, I would also be troubled.”

“…Yes.”

“…I’m not telling you to give up on your feelings. Just that you should have to look at the reality. If I don’t say this, it would be bad for Bell too.”

The meaning behind those words is that from now on, I should also continue to work hard as an adventurer.

Seeing my unwilling but surrendering face, Eina also returned to her role of a guild official and asked a question.

“Exchanging gold?”

“…Yes. At least before I met the Minotaur, I defeated some monsters.”

“Then let’s go to the gold exchange. I’ll go with you.”

Despite how annoyed I made her become, I still felt guilty deep inside. Although, I know that she did it for my own good as I did not understand much, but I think that it will be difficult to raise my head in front of Eina from now on.

Afterwards, we went together to the gold exchange located inside the guild and obtained today’s rewards.

The monsters that I primarily defeated were goblins and dryads, afterwards taking the magic stone piece from them. All together it exchanged into 1200 Varisu. It was considerably lower than an average income, but this is because I fled from Wallenstein, the time spent at the dungeon was also considerably shorter than usual.

Ah, because of the cost of the repairs for my weapon and for the god and my own meal, even items can't be replenished…

"……Bell-kun"

"Ah, yes. What is it?"

Just when I was about to go back, Eina, who brought me to the entrance, told me to stop.

22

She was hesitant, but afterwards, she seemed to have decided and began to speak.

"About this, women will primarily think that a strong and reliable male has more charm…So, as long as you work hard, then…that… right?"

"……"

"……Wallenstein might also look at Bell who became stronger?"

My actions suddenly stopped and, hearing this remark, I lifted my head and stared at Eina.

Once I realized that she was not acting as a guild official, but rather as a friend encouraging me, I could not help but smile.

24

I quickly ran away from the place and immediately turned my heard around and yelled to Eina.

“Eina, I love you!”

“……Eh!?”

“Thank you!”

Once I saw that I made Eina blush, I smiled and entered the street crowd.

The labyrinth city Orario.

Not only does it have an underground maze known as a dungeon, above it was a huge city.

The city, or rather a city that flourished because of the guild that managed the dungeon, had a variety of people living here, not only humans, but also other races.

As for me who still had little understanding of the place, the explanation for Orario can only end here. Although I am a resident here, my level of knowledge about it is still not high.

As for the people who enter the dungeon, and continue to gain revenue from there to sustain their livelihoods, they are called adventurers. It is also my current occupation.

I grew up in a rural village not too far away from Orario, and can be regarded as someone who knows nothing about the world and after the death of my grandfather who raised me up, I had completely lost my guardian. So I took the remaining wealth and left the village.

Needless to say, but you should already know the reason I left was because I wished to have a fateful encounter in the dungeon.

<——If you’re a male, you cannot not hope for a harem!>

When I was young, my grandfather would frequently say this sentence to my ear while having a hearty laugh, till now I can still remember it clearly.

Since I began to understand things, I had always liked the hero stories that my grandfather told me about. Repelling monsters, saving others, and also rescuing the

trapped princess. At that time, I really had these ideas and wanted to

become the coolest hero.

But, at that time, my grandfather told me.

In those hero stories, the greatest interest resides in having an encounter with cute girls.

However, at that time, it was still too early. The little me often dreamed to become a hero and also began to produce a passion to have an encounter with the opposite gender. My grandfather had also begun to instill what exactly is a <Male's Romance>.

As my age increased, I understood how great the existence of a hero is, and that my idea was just wishful thinking, so that dream slowly withered. What replaced it was the passion to succeed his idea, and this passion gradually increased.

After being persuaded by my grandfather repeatedly, what became one of my favorite books was <The Sacred Labyrinth Dungeon> —— A book that records the heroic deeds from heroes within this labyrinth city. It is also possible that he bought this book to cultivate my passion.

Placing myself into the gradually unfolding adventures and following the heroes……If I go to Orario, If I become an adventurer, If I enter the dungeon.

Then at that time,wouldn't I be able to become an hero, and be able to find my fateful encounter?

At the time when I lost my only relative, I seemed to have been moved by his remaining thoughts and came to the place with a dungeon.

At the beginning I was really still mindless, just like today and placed myself near death. I began to have an idea that my reason for coming here was really too stupid.

Perhaps I am the only one who holds a playful reason to become an adventurer.

Forget it, whether it is for wealth or for reputation, those people are all pursuing something, I did not feel that I was that different in nature.

However, <Survival> is definitely difficult. After nearly dying today, I deeply understand this.

No matter if it was the dungeon or for other things, you can't consider it that simply.

26

My goal has already changed from before, it now includes the thing about Aizu Wallenstein.

In the overcrowded streets, all kind of races are there. I was working hard to walk through the cracks between people.

Dwarves, Gnomes, Beastmen, Hobbits……there are some normal citizens, and also people wearing gorgeous equipment. To a person who grew up in a rural village, the streets were filled with freshness and beauty. Perhaps even just this simple crowd, I would not get tired of seeing it. Even this noisiness was a wonderful feeling in my heart.

Although my eyes were completely stuck onto the cute elves' bodies, I still remember my destination. Going past the busy street, I entered a narrow trial and turned a few corners.

Once the noisiness completely disappeared from behind, I walked to the end of the road.

"……"

I raised my head to look at the building in front.

What was constructed in the depth of this unpopular small road was a broken down church.

You could also see that this two-story building that used to pay respects to gods was almost completely broken. From the appearance, there are traces of broken stone everywhere. It would easily make one feel that it has gone through many years and has disappeared from the memories of the people , this type of sadness.

At the top of the front entrance, a statue of a goddess, with a tattered body and half her face missing, was smiling down at me.

"Okay."

Although there is no need to confirm, but I still turned my head and looked if anyone was around. Then I immediately drilled in from the front entrance, and entered the inside of the Church. In fact, the front

entrance did not have a door.

27

The inner part of the building had a degree of destruction comparable to the outside. From the gap between the broken floors, dense weeds grew. Most of the ceiling had already fallen apart, it was equivalent to having none. From the big hole in the ceiling, the warm sunlight shone right through. It shone onto the altar that had managed to maintain its original appearance.

This could be basically called a ruined church and I used the movement I learned to pass through it. I came in front of a small room in front of the altar and went in.

There is a row of shelves without any books in this dimly lit room. Behind the innermost shelf was a ……ladder extending to the bottom.

After going down this seemly bottomless ladder, a door appeared in front of my eyes, the door was open and from the tiny window on the door, a small light leaked out.

“Kami-sama also came back! Ah I’m back.”

I shouted while stepping into the door. What was in front of my eyes gave off a feeling that it was a small room in the basement. Inside there is the aura that someone lived here, but about the point for people living here, it seems like it was only one part of it.

The person I called out to was seen once I entered the door. She was lying down on the purple sofa. With a position of lying on her back and holding a book in her hands. Once she heard my voice, she immediately stood up.

If just by judging from the appearance it looks like a little girl… it should be considered between a little girl and a female teen. She was even shorter than me, so from other people’s perspectives, saying that she was my little sister who was almost the same age as me was not a problem.

A smile emerged on the innocent girl’s face. With a sound “totototo” , she ran up in front of me.

“Ahah you’ve returned. Aren’t you earlier than usual today?”

“I nearly died in the dungeon…”

“Hey Hey, are you alright? If you die I will be quite troubled. Perhaps it would be quite sad to say.”

28

After saying this, her two small hands gently touched my hands. As if to confirm that I have not been injured.

From her words, I could hear a hint of concern. I feel very happy about this and my face began to flush.

“It’s not a problem. I will not let you be left on the street.”

“Ah, you’ve said this before. If one day you decided to ride on a big boat, you must have prepared your resolve right?”

“What kind of strange words are these…”

The two of them laughed while conversing and entered the inside of the room.

The inside of the room was composed of space made from a square and a rectangle.

It just looks like the shape of the letter P. Near the door of the square section stood two sofas. I sat down with her.

The girl facing me was undoubtedly a beautiful girl. Her sleek black hair just covered her ears and she tied a pony tail on both sides. What was used to tie her hair was a silver bell. A round head and a round face, it made her appearance seem quite immature. But perhaps because of this, the contrast between her face and her upper part of her clothing made her mature boobs more noticeable.

Her round eyes revealed a blue light. That perfect body will always make people have a dreamy atmosphere.

Although I can definitely guarantee that she would become a peerless beauty in the future, she cannot get rid of her current appearance.

Kami-sama, just as I called her, this person is a ＜God＞

A different being compared to humans, demi-humans and monsters

that appear in the dungeon, she is an existence that is in a different dimension compared to us.

They are different from us in how our appearance changes as our age increases. It is completely beyond our cognition, an existence that is greater than the hero that I had envisioned.

“In that case, today you basically have no harvest?”

29

“A little less than usual. Kami-sama, what about you”

“Oho, Look at this! Tada

“T…This is!?”

“Because I made a lot of small contributions to the store’s revenue, so I got a lot of potato croquettes! Today’s dinner is a feast of potato croquettes. Fufu, Bell-kun, you won’t be sleeping today right?”

“Kami-sama, you’re the best.”

This great existence was also working in a human shop. Of course, it was to earn money and making a living for tomorrow.

——A long time ago, <The Gods> descended to our world…… According to their words, it was a place called <Lower World>. Although there are many explanations about this out there, but based on the words of the god in front of me, it was because “Heaven was too boring, so there’s no helping it”.

We, who are trying to ascend to heaven, generally see it as paradise. However, the gods were already tired of living an eternal life. So in order to get rid of their boredom, they went to find some fun with the culturally prosperous “children” – which means us, who lived in the Lower World.

<To stand in the same position and have the same abilities as the children, in order to see things from their perspective> They are a perfect existence, so that’s why they are not perfect. For them who are bored, this world was filled with interesting things.

As a result, the Lower World made the gods extremely excited. The satisfaction from Unpredictable events, Food, Interest and Arts, and

the other many special interactions.

They were able to smile while being satisfied.

Although it feels like the Gods are just playing a game, but during the time, when they cannot predict the end results, they really really enjoyed it.

The Gods have not yet lived long in the Lower World. However, it seems that many gods have decided to live here permanently.

30

The Lower World residents of that time, or our ancestors, did not refuse and didn't have any dissatisfaction. Because they obtained a <Grace> from the gods, so they feel as if they had found a treasure. Although the explanation was like this, wasn't it actually a relationship of using and being used? The current structure clearly demonstrates this relationship. They are mixed with the children and like us, they help each other daily and strive to survive.

And saying goodbye to their boring and trapped lives, the Gods have already completely penetrated into this world.

"Ah, come to think of it……Even though everyone say I am extremely cute as mascot character, there is still no one who wants to enter my <Familia>. They all say: "I've never even heard of the name Hestia." These people are all so calculating."

"Yes, originally, no matter which Familia gives the Grace, it is all the same……"

The God in front of my eyes is called <Hestia>. Gods like her all have children bear their own title.

To be accurate, a <God's Familia> is a faction of the god. <Loki's Family> means <Goddess Loki's Familia>, <Hestia's Family> is <Goddess Hestia's Familia> Of course, there are people who refer to it as faction so it is called Loki's faction and Hestia's faction.

From what I feel, joining a family is equivalent to becoming a family member to the god.

Although Gods decided to live with us from the Lower World ——

There was a rule that stated that Gods cannot use their almighty <Godly Power> in the Lower World before. ——But food and living standards all require money.

Of course, there are a few Gods that enjoy to work, but most Gods still like to simply enjoy themselves. These Gods, in order to continue their carefree living style, lend their power to people from the Lower World.

After joining a family, they will give <Grace> to the people from the Lower World.

Then those individuals would have to meet the requests of the Gods, and help the Gods earn money.

In other words, if we unfold those words, Gods are supported by their family members.

However, we cannot completely ignore the benefits from the <Grace>. Just by accepting it once, no matter what kind of people, they will all be able to repel the lower level monsters in the dungeon.

According to Hestia's words, it is a <Equivalent Exchange>.

"Ah, making Bell-kun take the burden alone, I really am quite sorry about it……"

"I'm okay……Kami-sama, you, too, have been working hard."

If they are large families with lots of members, then, of course, there also exist weak families like ours.

If it was like that, even Gods have no other choice……They must work hard like Hestia. There is no time or chance for them to enjoy the things they like, and could only simply focus on surviving.

In that case, what else can they do……They could only mix with the crowd of people from the Lower World. But for such a God, I also could not help but become fond and intimate with her.

Yes. But among the Gods, there are some that control their family like a empire— —It was more proper to say that they developed their own family into a empire……As if they pretend it as a managing empire

game?

But, because this was managed and created by others, so it is not considered to have betrayed the rules between Gods. Of course there are people who speak behind their backs and say that Gods are playing around with the people of the Lower World based on their own personalities, but there are some people who also wanted to be part of the royal family.

Although Gods enjoy to smile and watch at the complicated and staggering matters of humans, in terms of promotion, they basically were useless.

"……Sorry, I made you contract with such an incompetent god."

"Kami-sami, you…"

32

Seeing the weak and tiny god, I could not help but say it out loud.

My encounter with Hestia occurred shortly after I came over from the rural village and about to become an Adventurer, it was when I was mindlessly walked around the street where they recruit Familia members.

The famous Familias are already saturated with numerous members, and the small and medium-sized Familias would always select those people with some experience in battle or other occupations first compared to me, who had just came from a rural village and did not know anything and even required care from others.

I , who received many cold shoulders, eventually received an invitation from Kami-sama and did not hesitate to follow her.

Kami-sama might think that she had created a psychological burden, because she seems to have a feeling that she had abducted a child who did not know anything.

According to Hestia, she had only recently descended down from heaven, and was at her friend's Familia before meeting me. Just like most of the other gods, she also enjoys to play around over and over again, and indulges herself in the books from the Lower World. Because she had always lived a sloppy life, on the contrary, it seems

that her diligent friend was being used. The room located underneath the church was that friend's final friendship.

But in reality, there is essentially no difference between a God's Grace , this is a fact.

After receiving the Grace, no matter who, all start off from the same starting point.

The development afterwards is completely based on the individual's situation.

That is to mean for the Familia, it was similar to the shop and empires, it was based on the member's individual's ability. It was absolutely not because Kami-sama was incompetent.

"Don't let it bother you Kami-sama! Our Familia is still in the beginning stages, it's still developing. Although at the beginning it may be indeed difficult, but as long as we get through this, our life will become better. At that time, we will also have free time and people will come and join us!"

"Bell-kun, you…!"

33

And there you have it! I stood up from the couch while I was talking. From Kami-sama's hopeful eyes, I can tell that she was completely moved by me. But in reality all this was what I've recently heard from Eina. So my heart felt sore.

But no matter what, I still wanted to make Kami-sama a little bit happy.

At that time I was dreaming of a harem, but in reality, when I came to the city I was completely lost, and it was Kami-sama who gently extended her hand to me.

She is very important to me. I wanted to help this goddess.

This promise that I made the instant I encountered her was deeply engraved into my heart. It was also my first promise I made to myself.

"Oh, oh, to have an encounter with such a person must be my fortune. Then, for our future, let us first update your <Status>!"

“Okay!”

Kami-sama also stood up from the sofa. Those boobs, that did not match her tiny body, slightly shook. I was suddenly frozen for a bit, and allowed myself to smile, then I immediately turned away. Since I’m a shy person, the impact was too much for me.

It seems that the other Gods sometimes joke around and call her <Loli Big Boobs>.

What could “Loli” mean…

“Then, as usual, take off your clothes and lie down.”

“Understood.”

While heading to the bed inside the room, I removed the light helm that adventurers use, then I removed my top underwear. What was on my upper body was completed taken off. Afterwards I tilted my head to look behind.

The wall had a mirror. What the mirror reflected was my figure with elderly white hair and the light skin color. What was particularly striking was the black text engraved on my back.

These are all things that Hestia engraved on my body. This is the God’s Grace — —A Gift from God.

34

“Okay, Okay, lie down, lie down.”

After hearing Kami-sama hurrying me, I relaxed my entire body.

Once I lied down on my stomach, Kami-sama jumped up and sat on my waist.

“Anyway, you just said that you nearly died, what exactly happened?”

“It will take a while to explain it……”

When I began to explain, Kami-sama kept on touching my back. Once, twice, she went over the same places over and over again, as if she was telling me to relax, and gently stroked it.

Then I heard a metallic sound. That was Kami-sama taking the needle out.

I lifted my head slightly, turned back and looked. Kami-sama first used the needle to pierce her fingertips, then she let the blood flow out and drip slowly down onto my back.

The red blood that landed on my skin spread like a ripple and completely entered my back.

“You went down to a lower floor in order to have an encounter…… Your fantasy about the dungeon really is amazing. Anyway, in such a messy location, it is impossible to have an encounter with the kind of pure and innocent girl you imagine.”

“Innocent girl….! If there isn’t one, then wouldn’t there be no hope for the others?

I mean, I’ve heard that elves do not even hold hands with others if they do not approve of them!”

“Don’t yell now. Although there are races that are similar to the elves, there are also races like Amazons that would give their bodies to strong males for strong children. Also, I believe that those with your unrealistic way of thinking would eventually come to a bad end.”

“……Yes.”

After being informed of these heavy matters, I buried my head into the pillow. At the same time, on my back, Kami-sama used the spot that the blood had dripped

down onto as the center, and painted her fingers. From the left side, she began to apply additional engravings.

Now, what was engraved on my back is the ＜Status＞ ——it is also a ＜God’s Grace＞.

Kami-sama used the sacred text and engraved it on my back, using her blood as a medium. This is a power that only Gods have and can greatly improve the ability of the target. Of course, there are also things like ＜Experience Points＞. Those are gained through experiencing a variety of events so, just like their name implies, they are based on your own experiences in life.

Of course this is not visible, nor could it be created by hands of a Lower World human. If we need to explain it, it is equivalent of the history of your own experiences. Gods would take the event hidden in the history, let's say <Defeating monsters>, extract it out, and allow it to become food for growth.

The value of completed events in quantity and quality is the <Experience Points>.

To Gods, these are visible and can be controlled. Perhaps it is similar to the ancient rituals, that is after defeating enemies, you would be able to get praises and blessings.

Once the sacred text on my back has a sufficient amount of <Experience Points>, a Level Up happens and the ability values rise.

This power is basically what the Gods gave to the Lower World humans.

"Also there is the one called Aizu Wallenstein? That beautiful, yet strong girl must have lots of males that like her. If I was her, there would be many males in my surroundings."

"How could it be……"

"Fuu. Okay, Bell-kun. Just give up on that momentary infatuation. Pay more attention to your surroundings please. There must be beautiful and gentle people that care about you around."

I was blamed for thinking of things that I should not have thought of, and I immediately began to cry. Kami-sama began to continuous scold Wallenstein. I thought that her mood was good, so could it be that I stepped on a landmine?

Kami-sama said this, but the only females around me are Eina and Kami-sama herself. Eina will most definitely not accept me, as for Kami-sama ,who is an eternal existence,……Forget it, even if you tear my mouth off, I will not be willing to say it. It's completely impossible for Kami-sama to be my partner.

And Eina had always said this: Gods are all realistic and cold.

“Once she became a member of Loki’s Familia, you became unable to marry Wallen-whatever.”

“……”

She directly hit the mark.

Overall, people who joined a Familia can freely choose to marry within their Familia. But let’s say that you married a person from another Familia and had a child. Which Familia would the child belong to?

Although that is a special case and is not all, but if you maintain a overly close relationship with another faction, it can easily cause abuse. In order to regulate the rules, Gods’ management of their Familia is very strict.

Also, if the Gods themselves have a poor relationship, and had a hostile relationship with the other Familia, then they will not allow their members to bring danger to their Familia.

Although Eina had also advised me, if I, from the Hestia Familia, and Wallenstein, from the Loki Familia, wanted to date each other, there will be a lot of difficulties in the middle.

“Okay, I’ll put it bluntly. Forget about that girl, and look for your encounter in the vicinity.”

“……Kami-sama, you’re so mean.”

Ah, I won’t give up. Although I have not done anything, perhaps it is that nothing hasn’t been done. So I haven’t been disappointed yet.

My relationship with that person hasn’t been developed yet.

37

I renewed my resolve again and put on my clothes. At the same time, Kami-sama wrote down the status on the prepared paper. Because I basically do not understand the sacred text, Kami-sama used the language from the Lower World and wrote it down to tell me the details easily.

Also, it’s difficult to see words written on one’s back.

“Now, Look. Your new status.”

After saying my thanks, I caught the paper that was handed to me. My gaze immediately fell onto it.

Bell Cranel

Lv. 1

Strength: I 77 —> I 82

Endurance: I 13

Dexterity: I 93 —> I 96

Agility: H 148 —> H 172

Magic: I 0

＜Magic＞

[ ]

＜Skill＞

[ ]

38

This was a summary of my status that was recorded on my back.

The general abilities have five categories — the categories are strength, endurance, dexterity, agility and magic — each category is represented by ten stages from high to low S, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I. The higher the stage, the more powerful your ability is.

The number besides I is the proficiency value. 0~99 is I, 100~199 is H, Generally it is to link the specified formula to basic ability’s rank. Also there is a upper limit of 999. The more effort you place on a category, the faster the proficiency rate goes up, working hard to achieve the maximum value 999——which is also the S

rank ability so it isn’t a bad thing.

Lv is the most important. Even if it is just an increase of one level,

your basic abilities will be greatly enhanced. It can also be said to be a huge enhancement mentally and physically. The current Lv 1 and Lv2 have a gap of immense power.

So that's why the chaotic Lv 2 Minotaur caused me, a Lv 1, so much trouble.

In conclusion, you become stronger when your level goes up.

Kami-sama called a <Class Upgrade>

…Eh? This time dungeon exploration increased my strength, dexterity and agility… And agility increased that much! ? From H 148 it increased to H 172, so I gained 24 points?!"

Could it be because I was running everywhere to escape from the Minotaur……?

The proficiency system is simple: if you do not use a related ability, that basic ability will not increase. Example given: endurance. If I wanted to increase its proficiency, I would need to withstand the enemy's attacks. I always avoid my enemy's attacks, so this will basically almost never go up.

Although using a weapon or a defensive gear to block the attack will also count, but no matter what I will still try to avoid it. Because it hurts!

"……Kami-sama. When do you think I'll be able to use magic?"

"About this I'm not too sure. It seems to be based on <Experience Points> related to Cognition……Anyways, Bell-kun, you don't read books right?"

"Yes……"

From the <Status> Kami-sama engraved, what everyone cares about should be whether they can use <Magic>.

Before the Gods descended to the Lower World, Magic was a privilege of certain races. But there are also people who have never accepted a God's gift but still discovered they could use magic.

At least one, at most three, there is a fixed number of how many magics they can discover. Being able to use one is average, but if you can use two or more magics you usually get quite popular.

Not only this, the existence of magic itself is very important. There is a legend that long ago, a wind elf controlled magic and mowed down hundreds of people. In short, magic is a trump card. It is an ultimate skill that can reverse a situation.

Generally, if they are able to release a wave of flames, even if their enemy works hard and swings his sword to attack, they would not have any chance of victory.

This is the base of the concept of 'Magic'.

I confirmed the <Status>, there was nothing inside the magic section, so naturally I cannot use any magic……?

"Kami-sama, what about this skill section? It feels like it has been wiped……"

"……Ahhhh, just now my hand slipped. It was blank as usual, don't worry."

"So that's what happened…"

Basically I had some expectations.

<Skills> and <Status> values are slightly different, they are special effects that are placed onto the body under certain conditions. If <Status> represents the strengthening of the body, <Skills> is the special reactions happening within the body.

Although it isn't like magic where you can see how amazing it is, the discovery of a <Skill> is a lot more rare……No, there are almost none.

40

After confirming the updated <Status> again, I looked at the clock on the wall, then I turned my head towards Kami-sama.

"Well, Kami-sama. Should we prepare for dinner? Even though it is a potato croquettes feast, we should not only eat just this right?"

“Yes, then I’ll leave it to you, Bell-kun.”

“Okay.”

Giving Kami-sama a slight smile, I turned away and headed towards the kitchen.

Although I can only make simple dishes. Yes, just like Eina said, from now on I must consider money issues…

I felt that Kami-sama’s gaze was still glued onto my back, so I suddenly felt confident about saving money for the future.

× × ×

Hestia watched as Bell-kun entered the kitchen battlefield, and quietly adjusted her breath.

Placing the ＜Status＞ she had written in her hand and comparing it with the one on the boy’s back.

(These children really change easily…It is completely different from us who won’t change)

Even if it was just a small change, it will still create an impact. It will spread from the physical body and mental state and flow outwards.

It was neither desire or culture. ＜Change＞, this was the essence of the residents from the Lower World.

(……Ah, no no! I cannot accept that he has begun to change because of others, I absolutely do not want to admit that!)

Hestia’s two hands made her dark hair all messy.

41

It is too much ——After Hestia’s two hands held onto her head, she once again looked at Bell’s back.

Correctly speaking, it should be looking at the back’s engraved ＜Status＞ —— at its ＜Skills＞ window.

Bell Cranel

Lv. 1

Strength: I 77 —> I 82

Endurance: I 13

Dexterity: I 93 —> I 96

Agility: H 148 —> H 172

Magic: I 0

＜Magic＞

[ ]

＜Skill＞

Realize Freeze

[Single-Minded Pursuit]

□ Accelerates Growth

□ Effects last as long as his feelings are unchanged

□ Effects are determined by the strength of his feelings

To actually extract this type of hopeful ＜Experience Points＞ and personally carve it into his ＜Status＞. Now Hestia begins to regret it.

2章
だから僕は走る

Chapter 2: And So I Ran

"……Mmmm."

The base of <Hestia Familia> is in an unknown room within a church.

Because it was built underground, the sound of the morning birds chirping couldn't be heard here. I confirmed that it was morning and woke up from my bed at the stated time.

Because my home country was at the countryside, I had developed a habit of doing farm work in the morning, so I already had this biological clock.

(……It should be just five o clock.)

Just in case, I stuck out my head from the sofa to confirm it with the clock hanging on the wall.

The "Magic Stone Lamp" ,that was developed from the magic stone technology, was shining dimly on the ceiling, so even if it was underground, the room wasn't completely surrounded by darkness. It had the effect of allowing the naked eye to observe the surroundings.

Kami-sama had also praised the human technology of this "Magic Stone Lamp" as "really handy and flexible." Just because it was an object that made even gods exclaim, you could realize the greatness of the magic stone products that once were known as the "Century's greatest invention".

Yesterday, after finishing the small feast with Kami-sama, as usual, I gave the bed to Kami-sama and slept on the sofa. It was narrow, but I was already accustomed to it.

After I blinked a few times, I prepared to get up to wash my face…… when I suddenly noticed.

Besides the blankets, there was a round object pressing onto my body. Very soft.

Because I wasn't mistreated by it, I didn't notice it earlier.

With a question mark inside my heart, my hand reached out towards the unknown round object……and I instantly understood. It was Kami-sama.

She had buried her head in my chest and was fast asleep. Although I was shocked, I immediately leaked out a wry smile.

(A dream……Is it?)

I could only sigh and think that anything could happen in this world. Okay, now it's trouble, what should I do.

It was easy to escape from the sofa without waking up Kami-sama, but how should I say it, I didn't want to let go of this warm and comfortable existence. It was simply beyond a high-class pillow and worthy of the name god-class pillow.

I completely understood that even <Familia> that hold powerful weapons or items didn't have anything that could surpass this pillow. Kami-sama is really amazing.

I was a bit afraid, but I still put my hand around Kami-sama's back and gently hugged her. The feeling was very soft.

It's over, I really can't escape now.

Once my face was facing towards Kami-sama who was filled with a fragrance, Kami-sama issued out an "Mmmmm……" sound, shifted her lower body and rubbed her cheeks on my chest like a baby.

Ahhhhhhhhhhhh, she really is so cute……!

Within my heart, I was crazily infatuated ——Suddenly with a "Mmm-Chu" sound, Kami-sama's twin valleys with the overwhelming mass was completely flattened on top of me.

After that, I moved swiftly. I immediately removed Kami-sama, who turned from a god-class item into a dangerous item, and as if I was exchanging our positions, placed Kami-sama below and escaped from

the sofa.

(Kami-sama was actually trying to kill me……)

At that moment, it was the first time I felt fear towards Kami-sama.

If I was even one second too late, I would have suffocated.

After placing the blanket on top of Kami-sama, I prepared to go out. If I continued to dawdle here, it would feel very strange. After thinking about it calmly, I really should have died, as I was actually being very rude to Kami-sama.

I swiftly and quietly went through the door and left the room.

"……Bell-kun, you idiot. Hmmm"

(This actually occurred early in the morning…….)

My sigh merged with the somewhat chilly morning air. I walked alone on the main street that has a very different atmosphere at noon. The big road that was neither noisy nor complex gave off a open feeling. The stone-based shops that were built on both sides of the street still had their doors closed tightly.

The eastern skies were already bright. Even if it was early in the morning, you could still feel a breath of humans. There were hobbits who were preparing to open a shop, and also dwarfs that were adventurers discussing something in their team.

Looks like they are going to the dungeon.

I was also wearing equipment for entering the dungeon while escaping from Kami-s……Leaving the house. So if the others saw me, I would be classified as the same type as them.

"Ah～ I forgot to eat breakfast……"

GURRRRUUUU, after hearing the sound coming from my body, I looked left and right while walking around and stared at the surroundings.

This is bad, I forgot to eat. So hungry.

Looks like I won't be able to concentrate and focus on exploring the dungeon if I don't get rid of this sense of hunger.

I didn't want to lose my determination on saving money today, but there was really no other way, so what should I buy…….

"……! ?"

I furiously looked backwards.

Stopping my footsteps to look at the back.

……An unpleasant feeling. Although it was not the type where I detected killing intent, the slight breath was from a kind of powerful adventurer……Was I being observed?

A feeling of danger. Just like when you are assessing an item, ordinary people absolutely couldn't imitate it, a relentless gaze.

A shop employee preparing to open up a sidewalk café, a team of two beastmen conversing in an alley, a girl looking onto the street from the second floor of a shop……That scenery appeared in my vision while I repeatedly shifted my vision to moving objects.

With my blank brain, I surveyed my surroundings.

There was no trace of anything suspicious in the shopping street that hadn't opened up in the morning. Instead strange gazes were gathering towards me, who was standing in the middle of the road. However, at this time I had no energy to take note of this.

Did I think too much……?

After listening to the sound of my excessive heartbeat, I couldn't help but make a puzzled expression.

"This……"

"!"

I immediately changed my pose and turned around to the voice coming from behind. To any onlookers it must have looked like I was acting like a scaredy-cat.

The person who addressed me was the same as me, a human girl.

She was wearing a white blouse and a leaf-colored knee-length long skirt. On top of this was also a slightly long half apron around her waist.

Her black hair that had lost its luster was tied into a small knot, and a tail was hanging down below that knot. Looks like it was a type of ponytail.

Her eyes, that had the same color as her hair, were seemingly innocent and cute.

Her milky white and smooth gentle face displayed a surprised expression due to my vigilant action.

It was only a harmless civilian……W…What have I done! ?

“S…Sorry! Because I was a bit surprised……!”

“N…No problem, I’m really sorry that I scared you……”

I hurriedly apologized, but the other side also followed and apologized. I really am so sorry.

She should be a bit older than me. But it looks like it should only be a difference of one or two years.

Isn’t this the shop employee that I’ve just seen arranging things in the sidewalk café?

The one that was tenaciously trying to move a table alone……

“I…Is there something wrong?”

“Ah……Yes. You dropped this.”

A purplish-blue crystal was placed in her outstretched hand.

“Huh? ＜Magic Stone＞? A…Ahhhh?”

I crooked my neck to look at the waist bag above my butt. I usually put the ＜Magic stones＞ that I obtained from monsters into this fist-sized waist bag.

Usually I would tighten it, but did I loosen it for a reason this time?

I remembered that yesterday when I exchanged the money, I should have given all the Magic Stones to the guild. Could it be that I remembered wrong?

Besides Adventurers, it was impossible for others to have a ＜Magic Stone＞……Yes, it must be like that.

“S…Sorry. I’m grateful for it.”

“No problem”

She answered with a smile that made me feel comfortable. My frown when I was apologizing also changed to a smile because of her smile. Able to meet up with such pure kindness made me completely relieved.

“Are you preparing to go to the dungeon so early?

“Yes, I am simply going to the……”

The shop employee continued to talk with me. Because I was troubled on how to end this, I was grateful that she spoke first.

After exchanging a few more words, I said my goodbyes.

…….Just when I was thinking of this, *Guru*, my stomach issued out such an embarrassing sound.

“……”

“……”

The shop employee, who widened her eyes inconsiderately.

I, who was blushing furiously.

Then, she let out a “*pfft*” and leaked out sounds of laughter. A violent blow. I bowed my head and let the steam emit from the top of my head.

“Ohho, your stomach, are you hungry?”

“……Yes”

“Could it be that you haven’t eaten breakfast yet?”

50

I, who was shy and could not directly look at the shop employee, nodded.

She took up a thinking pose, then suddenly hurried away from here.

She passed through the café, which was mentioned before, and disappeared inside, but she returned shortly.

What she didn’t have when she left was —— a small basket cradled under her slender hands. From inside, you could see a small bread and some cheese.

“If you can, please eat this……Because the shop hasn’t opened yet, this cannot be called a formal meal.”

“Ehhhh! ? If that’s the case, then I’m really sorry! Plus, shouldn’t this be your breakfast……?”

The shop employee smiled shyly.

Uwaah……This person is definitely the type that releases her cuteness from within.

Although it was not the same type of appearance that makes one comfortable like Wallenstein and Kami-sama……But it seemed to be the type that would attract you more, the closer you get……

How should I put it, the type would give off a <Isn’t she a beautiful girl on the streets—— ! > feeling so that even if the gods see her, they will absolutely praise her.

“If I ignore this, I would feel guilty. So Mr. Adventurer, please accept it.”

“T…Too cunning……”

Being requested in such a way, how could I possibly still have room to refuse her.

Using such a smile to say such words, that’s too cowardly.

I, who was disturbed to the max, didn't know how to respond while the shop employee closed her tiny eyes.

After opening her eyes, this time she had a slightly mischievous smile, and placed her face close to my eyes.

S…So close……

51

"Mr. Adventurer, this is consistent with my own interests. Although I would lose a bit if I fill your stomach here, in exchange……

"I…In exchange……?"

"……Tonight, you would have to have dinner at the shop where I work."

"……"

This time, it was my turn to widen my eyes.

I thought for a while understand the meaning of this sentence.

Facing the smiling shop employee, the thick walls that I unconsciously place around people when I meet with them for the very first time, were completely shattered.

Following, I also broke into a smile.

"Really……So cunning."

"Oh ho, quickly accept it. Today my salary will certainly increase."

The shop employee said to me, you're welcome.

What, this person is actually very calculative.

"……Then, I'll see you tonight!"

"Okay, I'll wait for you."

Until the end, the shop employee continued to maintain a smile. Although I was set up, it feels like I was drinking tea cozily. Thinking about this, I suddenly became shy again.

The shop employee watched me as I held the small basket in one hand.

At the end of the long street, in the middle of the city, the dungeon was located underneath the cloudless morning sky's skyscraper facilities.

I suddenly remembered something when I was approaching the white skyscraper, and stopped to look back.

52

I spoke to the incredulous shop employee, who was still watching me.

"I…I'm Bell Cranel. May I ask for you name?"

"It's Seal Flover, Bell-san"

We exchanged smiles and our names.

× × ×

The dungeon already existed before the gods descended to the Lower World.

Although it was not as massive as before, but streets were already built on top of the dungeon, it was said that it was made by a predecessor of the guild.

To summarize it,in ancient times there were people who cooperated with the current and the old guild and fought against the monsters without any ＜Grace＞ from the gods.

"*GYAAAAAUUUU*! ?"

"Ha!"

A part of me couldn't believe it, but the other part was in awe. Thinking that there were really such powerful people in the past.

Compared to me, who obtained Kami-sama's ＜Grace＞ and was finally able to defeat the ＜Kobolds＞ , there exist people who genuinely defeated the monsters from the dungeon with their own bodies in the past.

“*SHYAAAA* !”

“Hah! ?”

“*GUUUUUUUU*! ?”

If and only if.

53

If the people from ancient times were here.

If those true warriors that defeated the enemy alone were here.

Those powerful warriors would certainly face this situation by pinching their nose and running away.

“ “ “ “ “ “*GROOOOAAAAAAAAAAA*” ” ” ” ” ”

“This is impossible——! ? “

At least to me, it was completely impossible.

“Damn it! NOT FAIRRRRRR!

“ “ “ “ “ “*GAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA*” ” ” ” ” ”

Turning my back towards the horde of Kobolds, I desperately ran. A total of six monsters were chasing stubbornly after me.

The location was currently the first floor of the dungeon.

Light blue walls and ceilings filled my entire vision.

The dungeon, where one could not see the sky, stretched endlessly in all directions.

Forking roads, crossroads, a slight downhill. In this neat and orderly path that was placed throughout underground, I ran while waving my arms.

Because it was still early in the morning, I could not see any traces of other Adventurers on the first floor of the dungeon. I, who had managed to hunt monsters smoothly earlier on, had unfortunately met a group of Kobolds.

Initially, there were eight of them. Although I managed to kill two of them before I was surrounded, they had actually managed to lay a beautiful encirclement. Thus, I had no other options except for one. That is ——To run.

At first, it was rare for Kobolds to form a pack. Using their sharp teeth and claws as their weapons, Kobolds usually move by themselves or with one other. As a beginner Adventurer, what I say isn't very convincing, but I have certainly never come across such a situation before.

54

Including yesterday's Minotaur, I truly feel that these few days didn't have anything pleasant happening, and instead there was danger.

Have I obtained someone's hatred or have I been secretly cursed……

"!"

I quickly jumped into the right –angled corner, braked and then turned around and hid my presence.

I decided to ambush the Kobolds. I prepared to attack them the instant they turned this corner.

Thinking about what I had to do next, I couldn't help but feel nervous.

If there were other Adventurers at the scene, would they make fun of my decision as "foolish"?

However, since the first floor's paths are quite wide, it could easily become a unfavorable battle of one facing many. So no matter how much I try to escape, it will be difficult to create a one vs. one situation.

And if I had continued to run away, I could have encountered other monsters.

If I'm gonna do it, I should do it quickly.

"……!"

The footsteps of kicking the ground gradually became closer.

Facing the moment that had yet to come, my gaze fell to my hand.

The five fingers were tightly gripping the small dagger.

Bell Cranel is a dagger user. This dagger only had a 20 centimeter blade, it was also the only weapon I own.

The hand holding onto the handle had sweat coming out of it. Listening to the numerous echos of the beastly roars, I tried to calm myself down and take a deep breath. Fuuuu Haa, taking a deep breath.

55

Then the next moment, the face of the beast with red eyes appeared from the other side of the wall.

“Uwwaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!”

“*GUUUUUUUU*?”

By the time we had both caught the other’s presence, I had already rushed towards them.

As the reflection inside the pupil of the Kobold in front of me gradually become larger —— *Stab*.

My dagger entered the opponent’s heart. That was the first one.

After seeing the unexpected scene of what happened to the Kobold that had turned the corner, they were shaken. However, my actions and momentum did not stop and disappear there. Using the Kobold that I killed as a shield, I rushed towards the crowd of Kobolds, then rolled onto two of them and made them fall down to the floor.

“*G…GAAAAAA*! ?”

“Fu!”

“*GYOGU*! ?”

The two that were forcibly pushed onto their backs were not the same, so I used the roll earlier to swiftly stand up.

Turning around, I stabbed at a muffled Kobold’s throat. Two down.

“*GUAAAAHHHHHH*! ?”

“!”

“*GOOO*! ?”

The three that were frozen stiff due to the attack finally started moving again.

I dodged the first one and took the time to kick the head of the other one that was on the floor like a soccer ball. The sound of a broken neck rang out.

56

The Kobold’s head was twisted and faced an abnormal angle. Three.

“I WIN!”

“*GYAIN*! ?”

A declaration of victory.

The remaining Kobolds already could not surround me. Because low level monsters with low intelligence could not cleverly cooperate. Right now, I cut open the fourth Kobold’s stomach. Only two remain.

Shortly after, I crushed the last Kobold who stared at me with terrifying eyes.

“Fuuuu～～……Finally finished”

Against the Kobolds that stopped moving, I sat down.

Although it was my first time facing that many enemies…… it was lucky that I escaped from the danger.

And I still did not have any injuries, so I did well.

Perhaps there are a number of ways to do it better than what I did. However, as an Adventurer that didn’t have a teacher, it was impossible to order me to do things that I didn’t know of.

Because ＜Hestia Familia＞’s only member is me, I didn’t have any senpai or companions to teach me how to fight. Although self-learning

sounds nice, in reality, I was still a rookie. Thus, for the current me, saying self-learning could only be heard as unreliable proof.

If I don't want to die, I could throw away my pride and ask other <Familia>'s experts for their fighting methods……But, if I do this, it will certainly not only affect me, but also Kami-sama, and I heard that the relationship between <Familias> becomes very complicated.

After placing all kinds of things onto the scale, I had a feeling of wanting to try and improve myself.

And, <If I do not take risks>, I could still fight.

57

Only think of fighting 1 on 1 at the dungeon.

Never chasing it deep.

Flexibly using the advantageous terrain.

Thus, I still clearly remember the information of dungeon that Eina had instilled to me , as if it was my only flesh and blood.

Standing up, I headed towards the corpses of the Kobolds. Facing their appearance of tongue sticking out because they had been completely out of breath made my conscience take a bit of a blow. But I shook my head and lifted the dagger once again.

In one breath, I waved the dagger downwards, and dug out the heart. Ignoring the twitching body and the scattering of the blood, I immediately took the shining purplish-red fragments located at the center of its chest.

That is the <Magic Stone>

From monsters, you can obtain crystals filled with magic……At least I heard. As always, I was not sure about the details about things. Looks like it was just like what Kami-sama had said, I really should read some books.

All in all, these crystals have incredible powers, and you could use this thing to exchange money at the guild. This could also mean that the Magic Stone is the source of money for Adventurer.

The best example is the <Magic Stone Lamp> in our home, <Magic Stones>, after passing human technology and processing, help various aspects of life——For example, using it as an ignition device or a freezer to preserve food. Thus a <Magic Stone> is treated as a precious resource. I heard that the Labyrinth City,through exporting Magic Stone products to other countries and regions, has earned many benefits. But in these circumstances, instead of saying the Labyrinth City, why not say that it was the guild that has achieved these benefits.

Strictly speaking, what I obtained from the Kobold is not a <Magic Stone>, but a <Magic Stone Fragment>.

This thing is only the size of a finger nail. According to what I verified, what you obtain from monsters from the first to four floors should only basically be this size.

58

The exchange rate was extremely low. Looks like the larger the Magic Stone, the more the guild will pay.

I stared at the purplish-blue crystals in my hand, suddenly, the Kobold's body that had the Magic Stone removed changed. At first, only the color pigments seem to fall out, then in the next instant, you'll notice that the head collapsed, finally the entire body will turn into ash and disappear without a trace.

This was the end of a monster that lost its Magic Stone.

According to Eina, the Magic Stone is the monster's core, and it is their source of living. She had also taught me that aiming for the Magic Stone was very effective to defeat the monsters. However, if the Magic Stone was cracked, then it would be worthless, but what is more important than your own life?

After sending off the Kobold, which had completely disappeared into dust, I began to repeat the same work. I should also head back to find the two that had died earlier on, thus I did not have time to take a break.

Lifting up my dagger, I swung it downwards, downwards and downwards.

“Eh……?”

After finishing with the final corpse, a right claw was left by itself that should have completely disappeared into ash along with the body.

Obtaining the claw that was buried under the ashes. Gently poking it, it seems that there was no movement that it would disappear.

Looks like it was a ＜Loot＞

Monsters that have their Magic Stones removed will sometimes leave a part of their body in their original shape. It was said that the part that was left behind was usually an abnormally developed location, holding a power that allows it to live independently without Magic Stones——In this situation it should be Magic Power. When the monster was still alive, it must have been a powerful weapon of the monster.

This item could also be exchanged for gold. Especially if it could be used as a material for weapons and armor. The prices were different between items, but usually these things could be exchanged from more money than Magic Stones.

59

“Lucky!”

Placing the Magic Stone Fragments into the waist bag, and placing the ＜Kobold’s Claws＞ into the black backpack behind me.

This backpack was specially made: it was a magical bag that was capable of storing items much, much larger than its appearance…… What, of course that was impossible.

If there was a limit to the fabric, it would naturally overflow, it could also be broken. Of course, the weight will still exist. How was it possible for the world to have such a useful fantasy-like item.

Normally, there would be a non-combatant known as a ＜Supporter＞ that would ensure recovery of items such as Magic Stone and Loot, but since the ＜Hestia Familia＞’s member count is only one, I believe I don’t have to say much more. I, who entered the dungeon alone, had no choice but to carry the heavy luggage, that could be exchanged for money, during a battle.

But Kami-sama and my <Familia> don't have the money to hire people……

"Yeahhhhhhhh!"

"*GAAAAAAAAAAAAAA*! !"

"……Continuous battle?"

Damn it, Can't you give me a break!

Including the existence of the Magic Stone, the dungeon was filled with mysteries.

The only dungeon in the world, just as I mentioned earlier, had existed in the Lower World before the gods descended.

There are some that say that the lowest floor in the dungeon leads to hell or the demon world. The gods seemed to know about it, but they do not seem to be willing to tell.

"A dungeon is a dungeon. A place where you chase after something else."

I heard this was a famous saying from the Gods. How much did they love the dungeon?

60

I heard the number one surprising topic should be that, "the dungeon is alive", right? However, there won't be things such as the thick walls attacking you, and the terrain of the floors would also not change. For the evidence, adventurers would explore and create a map of the floor, which could be sold to the guild. (But as one goes lower, the size of the area will rapidly increase at an unimaginable rate, thus, I've heard that there are many floors that did not have a complete map) The meaning of alive, means that it would repair itself, the structures that were destroyed in the dungeon would automatically repair themselves.

It was said that the dungeon was constructed by a material either higher-class or lower-class than the Magic Stones. Only the construction of the dungeon was still not understood by the scholars until now, it was stopped at the point of the phenomenon occurring.

Also, because it was a material that was similar to the Magic Stone, even if sunlight could not enter the dungeon, it was still very bright. Especially the first floor, the area that could be considered as the ceiling would also emit phosphorescence, thus no matter what time it was, it was bright to an absurd level.

Furthermore monsters. They were born within the dungeon.

Although this may seem like a joke, but in fact, they actually crawl out from the walls, like chicks break the shells of the eggs. Many had witnessed this scene. This was the reason why no matter how many monsters were hunted by the adventurers, monsters would still endlessly appear.

However, each floor could only produce a certain number of monsters. Although I heard that occasionally there would be monsters that run up from the lower floors, or monsters from the upper floors headed downwards, but normally, the monsters would be fixed to the corresponding floor, which they had appeared from.

Incidentally, the rule was basically: the lower the floor, the stronger the monster.

The location that connects the upper and lower floors would sometimes have stairs, sometimes large down slopes, all in all, there was a lot of possibilities. But no matter how many possibilities there were, there would not be an absurd thing like instant movement. But this should be logical, because even Gods could not do such a thing. The monsters are the same, the could only rely on their own legs to move around in the dungeon.

The monsters are only created within the dungeon.

Thus, if we are able to manage the dungeon well, we should not be threatened by the monsters.

Therefore, the management authority (Guild) was created early during the ancient times. Although I personally believe that the reason for the guild's existences was mainly due to the benefits it could obtain from the dungeon.

Once, when I was still very young, I was almost killed by a

＜Goblin＞, now that I think about it, that goblin should be the descendant of the monsters that came up to the earth before the guild was created. After leaving Orario, in the surrounding areas or the distant parts of the world, you could also see these monsters.

That also means that monsters have reproductive behaviors.

Although this was a terrifying vision, but I really could not believe that this dungeon is the same existence as the Gods, which created the Lower World humans and races.

Of course, even if had the guts, needless to say I would not dare to say such words to anyone, including the gods.

“——Ah!”

“*GOBURYAAAAA*!”

I gave off a flying kick and dealt a strong blow to the ＜Goblin＞ standing directly in the middle of the path.

The attack hit its big belly. The goblin’s fat body was twisted to 60 degrees, and widened its eyes, that nearly made others feel that they would pop out, to the max.

I sent him flying.

The hated green fellow that gave me a trauma, is now instantly fodder to me, who has obtained Kami-sama’s ＜Grace＞. But this was strange.

Right now I feel that the time when I first entered the maze, trembling at the sight of these fellow, was a thing of the past.

“Ah, more loot.”

This time, it was ＜Goblin’s Tooth＞

62

After the recovery was complete, I had to carry my backpack, that was heavy to the extent of making others feel worried. As if the weight could be heard from my back.

Ah～, Although according to the capacity of the backpack, it could carry a lot……But this would most likely hinder my actions, right?

But if it were monsters like the earlier goblin, those should be located everywhere—— “*GIISHHAAA*! !”

“Uh! ? Ah, Nnn! ?”

——Correction! I must first think of a way to fix my backpack!

Although it was a surprise attack, it was not an unavoidable attack!

I did not know whether it was hiding in the shadows of the walls, I place my vision onto the constantly intimidating goblin that was revealing its fangs and placed the backpack on the floor.

Right, I can’t be hasty. Even if I do not take risks, the dungeon is still filled with dangers. Didn’t Eina also say many times that thinking of “Well, so be it” was the most dangerous thing.

I should first take a trip to the ground. It wasn’t too late to come back after exchanging my battle rewards for money. I shouldn’t think that it was too troublesome.

Didn’t I say that I would form a good relationship with Wallenstein? Although I don’t know exactly what I should do, I know that the current me is completely unqualified.

I suddenly remembered the face of the golden-eyed and blonde savior. I cannot help but feel the accumulated desire that seemed to be burning my body.

Because today I still have to go to Seal’s shop, I must earn an income that was more than usual. Until the promised time, I will insist on doing the same thing over and over again to earn money!

63

I must earn enough.

“But first ……I should give back what I take with interest!”

“*BUEBEEH*! ?”

Crush!

× × ×

Bell Cranel

Lv. 1

Strength: I 82 —> H 120

Endurance: I 13 —> I 42

Dexterity: I 96 —> H 139

Agility: H 172 —> G 225

Magic: I 0

<Magic>

[ ]

<Skill>

[ ]

64

"……What"

At sunset.

I, who had finished today's exploration of the dungeon and came back to the hidden house within the church, couldn't help but widen my eyes.

Because from the paper, that recorded my updated <Status>, which Kami-sama passed to me, the recorded proficiency growth was so incredible that it was unbelievable.

"K…Kami-sama, This…did you copy it wrong or what……?"

"……You think I cannot even do simple reading and writing, is it?"

"N…No! I did not mean it that way……But……"

But……It seems like I have just seen some amazing numbers.

Placing that somewhat ironic reply from Kami-sama aside, I began to carefully look at the paper.

Today, I really attempted to become strong. There was indeed a confidence compared to my past struggles.

But, aren't these figures too much……The total proficiency went up over 160, is this a joke?

I actually achieved this much in one day, then where has all my effort gone to for the past half a month……

"K…Kami-sama, there must be a mistake! ? See, here, the <Endurance> category!

I only received one enemy attack today!"

"……"

The only damage I received was from the sneak attack from that goblin. I easily dodged all the attacks afterwards. But even just this, my <Endurance> actually increased by 29……The stat had tripled in 1 go.

I defeated a large amount of monsters until today to receive the previous stats, no matter how hard I worked, it was impossible that being attacked once would increase my proficiency by this much.

"So I said there must be a mistake……T…That, Kami-sama?"

"……"

Strange.

Kami-sama had a terrible mood. Extremely terrible. Terrible to the extent that it was scary.

The small face frowned, and using half an eye to stare tightly at me. This pressure, as if I could hear Kami-sama saying "I'm angry".

W…Why? What did I do wrong?

Just because it was the first time I encountered such a Kami-sama, I began to be at a loss.

I, who was sweating from my forehead, trembled like a powerless

goblin.

“K…Kami-sama……?”

“……”

“A…About this, how should I say it……”

“……”

“W…Why…Did I suddenly grow…this…….”

“Who knows!”

Kami-sama pouted and ignored me.

In this situation, I couldn’t help but feel, “Wow, so cute!”, did I really have a problem?

It was Kami-sama’s first rebellious act.

66

“Hmmph”

Kami-sama turned her back towards me and silently headed to the closet at the depths of the room. Her twintails constantly bounced as if it was trying to intimidate me.

Opening the door to the closet, Kami-sama, who was shaking from side to side, tried hard to reach for her special-made jacket. Wearing that jacket that could even cover her petite body’s unbalanced boobs, she passed me, who was frozen stiff.

“The place I work at is hosting a whatever party, so I’ll go out for a while. You should also occasionally relax by **YOURSELF**, and eat a luxurious meal in a **LONELY** way!

BANG! Under this sound, the door was slammed shut.

Until the very end, Kami-sama didn’t look at my face. Only leaving a mystery about the party her workplace is hosting.

……W…What exactly happened?

I feel that it must be me that was wrong at first, but I couldn't recall what kind of mistake I made.

Just because of the fact that I made Kami-sama angry, I depressingly left the hidden house. And sighed at the same time.

Ah, I must cheer up before I reach Seal-san's place……

The sun had already been setting to the west.

The loss of the light from the sun, what came forth was the dark blue evening and faintly shining full moon, and countless laughing sounds.

The laborers that ended their shift, the adventurers that came back safe and sound from the dungeon as if they were ending today, were all immersed in wine. The prospering voices rushed forward from the bars, followed behind by roaring and laughter. Together with the orange-colored lights from the opened shops, multiple figures jumped onto the paved road.

67

(I remember the place where I met Seal-san this morning was indeed somewhere close by……)

Walking on this endless main street like a lost child shaking his head left and right.

The surrounding scenery was completely new, it was completely different from how it was in the morning when a single figure could not even be seen, which made it very difficult for me to remember the location of the shop. It was impossible to imagine that here was the same place as it was in the morning.

With the night bars as the selling point, the busy road exuded a passionate atmosphere everywhere, making even the demi-humans become happy. The hobbits, known as the representatives of small people, and gnomes were singing on the roads while holding each other's shoulders, the dwarfs, that were famous as mighty and tough warriors, also gave off a hearty laugh and entered this circle.

Since there were female beastmen with animal ears and tails wearing bold outfits attracting customers, and there were also Amazon, who were wearing outfits even more outrageous than theirs, constantly

ignoring the surrounding gazes and walking with a faint smile. I hurriedly turned my gaze away from their bodies.

Through the stringed and wind instruments' melody, the crowd streamed over from the surroundings to the performance, the sound of the fine music touched the passersby.

The main street had completely put on its night appearance.

"……Should be here, right?"

As I finally found the familiar coffee shop, I stopped in front of the shop.

It was constructed by stone just like the other shops. This building that had a depth of two floors was perhaps the largest around in the surrounding night bars.

The night bar that Seal-san works for, <The Mistress of Abundance>.

I was thinking deep down that this was a really amazing name, while staring at the sign, then I quietly peeked inside the shop from the entrance.

What I first saw was a well-developed female dwarf serving food at the counter — —It should be the boss ——Then, I saw a little of the kitchen, where the female

cat people with animal ears and tails were busily working, and the waitress that takes the orders, it seems like it should be all females here.

Or what I should say is, all the workers in this shop are female.

……I think I know where the name of this bar came from.

(However, this, isn't it too difficult for me……?)

Seeing that the shop employee was also mixed with a prideful elf, I could not help but feel surprised, then I swallowed. Until yesterday, although I thought it was not possible, but the dream garden with beautiful women and beauties that I wished for, was actually in front of my eyes. Of course, excluding the boss.

Although it cannot be considered as a glamorous and suspicious

space……But to me, who has no immunity to these situations, just the fact that the shop employees were all female, was enough to make me blush.

The shop atmosphere was extremely bright. The shop employees were filled with energy and sounds of laughter could be heard everywhere. Although there were many adventurer customers that viewed the shop employees with perverted eyes, basically everyone was simply drinking and laughing, the cooking seemed to look very tasty as well.

The interior also seems to be very stylish compared to the other stores, but even so, the peculiar impression of a bar still exists. From the point that there was a café shop next to entrance, it could be seen that this shop followed the fashion carefully.

Anyways, why did the guest's vision focus on me from earlier.

Looks like there aren't only male guests, female guests also like this shop.

But I really want to immediately retreat from here……

"Bell-san!"

"……"

It was extremely swift, once I looked, I found that Seal-san was standing beside me.

I forcibly made a smile to conceal my twitching mouth.

I should just admit it……

69

"……I'm here"

"Yes, Welcome"

Seal-san, wearing the same outfit as this morning, welcomed me.

Entering the wide entrance, she shouted with a clear voice.

"We've got a customer!"

(……Did the night bars even have to report this! ?)

I was whispering within my heart that I did not want to do such a thing that would attract attention! While entering the shop and following Seal-san.

I took on a shrinking posture. I could not help but laugh at myself in this situation.

I really am a good for nothing.

“So, please have a seat”

“O…Okay……”

I was led to sit in front of the counter.

How can I say it, but I was sitting right where the counter turns in a right angle. It was located right at the corner of the bar, if I lean backwards, I would touch the wall. Because it was a corner seat, so there was no other seat next to me, and thus, no one would come over here to sit. It feels like sitting by yourself facing the boss at the counter? Looks like it was specially arranged for me, who was a newcomer, by Seal-san.

This way I wouldn’t have to consider about the other people’s gazes and could enjoy my meal at my own pace.

Seems like she takes care of me quite well.

“Are you Seal’s customer? Haha, Although you’re an adventurer, you look kinda cute!”

Leave me alone.

70

Facing the female dwarf boss at the counter, I used an out of character, depressing gaze and looked at her. Originally, I was struggling with this problem……

“I heard that you are a big eater that would make us grief! This old lady would continuously serve you dishes, you can relax and continuously hand out your money!”

“!?”

Hearing the words from the female boss, I was suddenly shocked.

I immediately turned to face Seal-san, but I did not imagine that she, who was staying beside me, would have actually turned her face to the side.

She looked away! This person looked away!

“W…When did I become a big eater! ? Even for me, it was the first time I’ve heard this!?”

“……Ehehe.”

“What Ehehe! ?”

I will not be fooled anymore! This person is a demon!

“About this, I told Mia-mama that I wanted to serve an guest I’ve just met, so please help me treat him with hospitality…….As a result, the situation became like this”

“It is intentional, right! ?”

“I will cheer for you!”

“First, get rid of all the misunderstandings okay! ?”

She was a devil! Who said that she was a beautiful woman on the streets!

“I absolutely cannot eat and drink that much!? In the first place, my <Familia> is very poor!”

“……The hungry me cannot use any power!……It must be because I forgot to eat breakfast!”

“Please don’t say such a script without any emotions okay! ? Anyways, you really are despicable!?”

It was obvious that you forcibly gave it out, now you’ve also forced me to repay the debt of one meal, what kind of fraud is this!?

“Ah ha, of course I was just joking around. I only expect a little effort on your part.

Please enjoy the meal at your leisure.”

“……A little, huh?”

How experienced……

I tried to hold back my sigh and faced the counter. I carefully placed the menu into my hands, ignoring the content and first looking at the price was the main point.

Today the amount of money I exchanged was 4400 Varisu. Due to the fact that I defeated more monsters that my previous record and that it luckily dropped consecutive loots, today I earned a much bigger revenue than before. I usually only average around 2000 Varisu.

Although a single meal that cost 50 Varisu was enough to fill yourself……But adventurer’s equipment and items were rather expensive. Just even a health recovery potion would be priced at least 500 Varisu, so until now I have not purchased a new weapon. And weapons, itself, also include a reparation fee.

The current dagger I use also cost me 3600 Varisu. And it was purchased through asking the guild to lend me money. Although I have finally finished repaying all my debt including the defense gear, adventurers must consider the circumstances.

After all, I do not want to spend a lot, and save up money.

In the end, I just randomly ordered pasta. But even that cost 300 Varisu. Ugggh.

There were lots of tricks and fashions for cooking. Although it was my first time to eat at a bar, but perhaps it was because the shop had carefully cooked it well, so the price was slightly expensive.

After the female boss’s question of “Wine?”, I thought for a while, and then rejected it. Although I would not say any childish excuse such as I’m still underage, but after all it would cost a lot of money.

But I did not expect that the female boss would actually ignore my

words and place a glass of brewing wine onto the table.

There was no meaning to asking……

“Having fun?”

“……Completely lost to the boss”

After eating half of the pasta, Seal-san came over to see.

I told the somewhat stingy feelings I had to her.

Her light-colored hair swayed left and right while she removed her apron, then she took a circular chair from the side of the wall and sat next to me.

“Don’t you have to work?

“The kitchen is very busy, but there are enough waitresses. And right now I have lots of time”

Can I? Seal-san used her gaze to question the female boss.

The female boss also lifted up the corner of her mouth as if she consented.

“Um, Anyways, I am really grateful about the matter in the morning. The bread was very tasty.”

“No problem. This way I also gave you means to work harder.

“……I’d feel that you’ve worked harder to sell is more correct.”

Facing the unexpected expensive dinner, I could not help but complain a bit.

Seal-san gave out a wry smile while she said “Sorry” and apologized to me.

Hopefully, these were really her true feelings.

Then I chatted with Seal-san about things about this shop.

This <Mistress of Abundance> was single-handedly built by the female boss Mia (I heard the shop employees all call her mama), and she was once an adventurer as well. She currently is in a semi-active state with the <Familia> she belongs to, it 73

was said that the God had given permission. I couldn't help but sigh because there was actually such a person.

She only accepted female employees. It was said that people with various situations all gathered here, and the female boss would not care about what their circumstances are, and generously welcome them.

Then Seal-san was the same? So I decided to ask for a bit, but she replied with "Only because the work environment looks nice." I thought that as long as it was with the same gender, the work should be relaxing and so I believed her.

"This shop, because it is popular among the adventurers, it is very busy. And the wages are also good."

"……Seal-san likes rich people? Unless"

"Of course it's a joke, a joke. And there are many people that gather here……"

After saying this, Seal-san raised her head from the counter and looked around the shop.

The dwarf that was making a pass at the shop employee and a waitress that easily handled the situation. Not only were there people smacking their lips at the elf who delivered the dish, but also Hobbits, who pushed the tables together, making a commotion.

Everybody was very passionate, lifted their glasses and smiled with their red faces.

"If there are a lot of people, then many would notice……that my eyes could not help but begin to shine and feel happy about it."

Seal-san narrowed her eyes and said this sentence.

Suddenly noticing my gaze which had been staring at her from the start, she blushed and deliberately coughed a few times.

"Anyways, it is like this. To have contact with strangers gradually became my interest and hobby…… How should I say it, I feel somewhat touched."

"……It is unexpected that you would actually say such a thing. However, I also understand this feeling."

I also understand. Because when I came to Orario, I was also very excited.

Making new discoveries, this may be a privilege to the people here of this city.

Thus, when I was resonating with the words Seal-san had mentioned, suddenly a group of ten people entered the bar. Perhaps because they reserved it early on, they were directly taken to the large space that was directly diagonal of my position.

This group did not seem like a divided group of adventurers, looks like all of the members had amazing strength……

(Unn ——)

My heart suddenly jumped.

Like a sudden strike, what entered my vision was a blond hair that was shining like gold.

The detailed, fine and beautiful outline, giving out a feeling that it will shatter if it was touched, was almost more like an elf or fairy that appears in the stories instead of a perfect human doll.

The huge presence of her golden eyes was clear as a crystal, to the extent where people could not help but swallow.

Her upright eyebrows did not move at all, bring a calm expression to the beauty that was walking leisurely.

Within the multiple powerful individuals that entered the shop, the person that my heart longed for to the extreme, was indeed mixed inside.

I absolutely couldn’t have been mistaken.

Aizu Wallenstein……!

“……Hey”

“Ohho! A beauty!”

“Idiot, not that. Look at that emblem”

“……Gehh”

75

Once the surrounding customers knew that they were members of the <Loki Familia>, they began to cause a completely different commotion.

The placed their faces together and quietly whispered as if they were having a secret talk.

“That is” “……The giant slayer <Familia>” “Isn’t this all their top members”

“Which one is the legendary <Sword Princess>”

All the sounds that entered the ears in waves all incorporated a sense of fear.

Including, there were many people who whistled when they saw Wallenstein and the other female members.

As for me, I obviously couldn’t calm down.

I had never imagined that I would actually meet up with the person that I long for in this fashion.

W…What should I do?

“B…Bell-san?”

I should go deliver my thanks……nonono, if I apologize under the current situation, it would be viewed as a video material. And I should prepare what I should do in front of her. Should I say “I love you and please go out with me”?

Calm down, you idiot. We are currently still strangers, how could you say such a thing?

I decided. I’ll first observe.

Anyways I didn’t know what the best thing I could do was. My brain had short-circuited.

“……Bell-s —an?”

Placing my red, blushing and heated face onto the counter, I observed the <Loki Familia>’s movements. Just like a hunter staring at a trap in the grass. Seal-san tried to converse with the me, whose behavior suddenly changed, but unfortunately I did not have the time to bother with that.

76

Wallenstein’s position was directly facing me. I heard the sound of my own beating heart, and directly locked my gaze at her.

“Alrightttttt, good work on the dungeon expedition! Today is a feast! Cheers!”

One person stood up and took the lead. Because of my position, I could only see her back and could not see her face.

Afterwards, members of the <Loki Familia> began to party. <Gachin!>, they used the beer-filled glasses to have a toast, then placed the food and wine into their mouths. Wallenstein is a small eater, she unhurriedly enjoyed her dinner. Once the <Loki Familia> entered into a festive atmosphere, the other customers also just remembered and continued to enjoy their food and drinks.

“ The <Loki Familia> are regulars here. This is because this restaurant was liked by their goddess Loki-sama”

Seal-san, noticing that I was watching the <Loki Familia> with eyes filled with curiosity, placed her face close to mine, used a hand to form a wall and quietly told me.

I understand, I absolutely won’t forget it.

If I come here, the chances of meeting Wallenstein will increase.

I, who had opened my eyes to the point that it was bulging, was completely immersed by Wallenstein’s words and gestures. At times she would give a wry smile to the wine glass that was pushed to her, at times she would converse with the vibrant female colleagues sitting beside of her, and also at times she would be like a small animal, using a napkin to wipe her mouth…….

Although this sort of hiding and peeking behavior was very disgusting, I, who had never known the multiple expressions Wallenstein makes, could only have my eyes staring at her.

Talking like that, smiling like that.

This led to my first time experiencing a weird sensation where even my heart was dyed red.

“Right, Aizu! Tell us about that story!”

77

“That story……?”

Whenever the name Aizu comes out from their mouths, my body will

automatically stiffen up.

Looks like the young beastman sitting diagonally two seats away wanted to make her talk about something.

He was quite handsome and also had that feeling of a man……Even I, who was the same gender, also felt that he was very cool.

“About that, when we were heading back and accidentally let a few minotaurs escape! That last one, didn’t you kill it on the fifth floor! ? And also about that tomato boy!”

——Under a completely different meaning than before, my heart lost its calm.

Taking that and updating it, my brain stopped its activities as if it was frozen.

“Minotaur, was it the ones that suddenly attacked us on the 17th floor then immediately retreated once we counterattacked?”

“It is those ones! It miraculously ran hard towards the upper floors, causing us to desperately chase after them! They really aren’t considerate, we were exhausted because we were just heading back～”

If you have to use your own legs to enter the dungeon, then logically you would have to use your own legs to leave. Because there is no convenient way to head straight to the destination floor, whenever

we, adventurers, add an additional floor, we would have to walk pass the same places multiple times.

Therefore, in the situation where you would head to a very low floor, you must be prepared for when you are heading there and for when you are heading back.

Because if you head straight without preparing and as a result used up your strength, causing you to be unable to come back, it can't even be a joke. For the <Familia> that head to the low floors, wealthy members and individuals and also a leader to accurately predict when to come back is extremely important.

That was the summary of the information that I have heard.

<Expedition> to the deep floors, the <Loki Familia>.

78

When they were returning, they carelessly allowed the Minotaurs to escape.

Chasing after them, and finally forced the last one to reach the fifth floor.

Wallenstein defeated it.

Then, at the scene that person was ——

"Then, there was a weak little rookie adventurer there!"

——That was, me.

"That scene made me wanted to laugh while holding my belly, it was just like a rabbit being forced to a corner! Then it was pathetically trembling to the point that its face was still twitching."

My entire body felt as if it was on fire.

To the extent that the inner heat could not find a single location that was not heated up.

"Eh? Then, how was that Adventurer? Did he survive?"

"Just when it was about to be finished, Aizu sliced the Minotaur into

pieces, neh?”

“……”

Under the situation where even my teeth could not grit tightly enough, my nerves were already about to burst and was completely facing that person.

That person, frowned slightly.

“Then that fellow, was completely covered with the smelly cow

blood……becoming a dark red tomato! Hahaha, I laughed to the point where my stomach is hurting……!”

“Whoa……”

“Aizu, you must have did it on purpose ,right? Right? Please tell me you did it on purpose ……!”

“……No, there is no such thing.”

79

The beastman youth tried to hold back his tears of laughter, and the other members could not help but laugh uncomfortably, the others, that had listened to the story, also clenched their teeth to prevent from laughing.

“And? That tomato guy, actually screamed and immediately ran away……Haha!

Our family’s princess actually let the person, who was saved, escape!”

“……Cough”

“Ah ha ha ha ha! It was great work! Aizu-tan, who made the adventurer afraid, was really moe!”

“Ha…. Ha…ha ……S…Sorry, Aizu, I can’t stand it anymore……!”

“……”

“Ah ah ah eh, don’t put up such terrifying eyes! That cute face of yours would be destroyed, you know?”

The <Loki Familia> that was surrounded by laughter.

On the contrary, the place where I exist at seemed to have opened a large hole.

That place and here, it seems that the world has been isolated.

“B…Bell-san……?” Although I heard a female voice beside me, but the sound went straight through my mind.

Then they began to bustle again.

“Anyways, I haven’t seen such garbage for a long time, causing my mood to become extremely poor. He was undoubtedly a man, but he was weeping and crying.

“……Arara～”

“What a piece of garbage. What do you guys say, if you were going to start crying then you should not have become an Adventurer. It was really disgusting, isn’t it, Aizu?”

“……”

80

There was a feeling that my brain was cut off.

“It is because of these kind of people that our appreciation has decreased, I really can’t stand it.”

“Enough is enough, close your annoying mouth, Bert. Letting the Minotaur escape was our fault. We should be apologizing to that youngster that was involved in the unfortunate event, and we do not have any right to treat it as a conversation topic during our meal. You really don’t know any shame.”

“Yeah, Yeah, as expected of elf-sama, really prideful. But, what use is protecting that incurable fellow? Isn’t this just self-satisfaction to cover up for your failure?

Why is it wrong to call garbage, garbage?”

“Stop it. Bert and Riveria. This way the wine would start to taste bad.”

—— *Gari Gari Gari*

“Aizu what do you think? That kind of garbage that could only tremble in front of your eyes. That rubbish could still claim to be Adventurer like us?”

“……Under that circumstances, I believe it is normal”

—— *Gari Gari Gari , Gari Gari Gari*

“What, pretending to be a good person……Then I’ll change the question. Between that kid or me, if you have to select a partner, who would you chose?”

“……Bert, are you drunk?”

“What a pain. Hey, Aizu, choose quickly. Which side would you wag your tail to, which side do you want to be played with?”

—— *Gari Gari Gari Gari Gari Gari Gari Gari Gari*.

“……I, can only say that it is absolutely impossible with Bert.”

“How shameless”

“Shut up old hag……What about this, if that kid says I love you in front of you, would you accept it?”

81

“……!”

—— *Gari Gari Gari Gari Gari Gari Gari Gari Gari Gari Gari Gari Gari Gari Gari Gari Gari Gari Gari*.

“Ha, of course it’s not possible. Since he is weaker than you, a wimp and also incurable, as a garbage, he completely is not qualified to stand next to you. This is a point that you must admit.

“As long as you’re garbage, you are not qualified to stand next to Aizu Wallenstein”

I kicked my chair and suddenly stood up.

Ignoring the gaze that immediately flew to me, I rushed out of the

shop.

“Bell-san! ?”

Running past the people on the street and leaving the surrounding scenery, even the voice shouting my name was left behind

I rushed through the night streets.

× × ×

“Bell-san! ?”

A figure burst through and disappeared outside the shop, and there was only one female shop employee that chased after the figure.

The majority of the people at the bar did not understand what had happen at that moment.

A confused croak spread through the crowd.

“Ah ah? Could it be a run and eat?”

“Uwah, he actually dare to run and eat at Mia mama’s place……He really has guts.

82

Looking sideways like the other surrounding individuals like Bert, Aizu stood up alone.

Her trained dynamic vision accurately captured the figure that rushed through like a projectile.

White hair, slim body.

The drooping bangs that were bright, and the dark crimson,red eyes that were the same as the ones as yesterday.

(At that time……)

Walking to the entrance of the shop, she lifted her hand on the pillar and looked around.

In the direction of her right hand, the female shop employee’s

silhouette disappeared at the end of the main street.

The boy's trace had long disappeared.

(Bell……)

She placed the name that the female had shouted on her tiny tongue.

Compared to the calling sounds of her companions, that boy's name resounded more in her heart.

"Hoi hoi, Aizuuuu. What are you doing ——?"

"……"

The female, who led the banquet just earlier, stood behind her, and placed her hands onto Aizu's abdomen. Placing her body close to the point where even her breath could touch her, and pressed her pubis onto Aizu's hips.

If this supernatural being wasn't ——＜Loki Familia＞'s goddess, no, if it wasn't the same gender, she would have sent her flying, but in the end, she could not lay her hands on her.

——Although this kind of thought surged through her brain at that instant, but Aizu had a disturbed expression and pulled off the hands around her abdomen,

then an elbow strike, after waiting for the other to retreat a few steps, she went and slapped her face.

"Hey, didn't you completely lay your hands on me……! ? Your expression and actions are completely not synchronized Aizu-tan……! ?"

"Please don't do such a strange thing"

She pressed onto her cheek that had been imprinted by a red left hand, crying and trembling, then at a blink of an eye, she resurrected and shouted "The cold Aizu is so MOE!!".

This made Aizu want to turn her gaze away from "that".

"Well well, don't give me such an expression. If you do not want to drink at the same space as Bert, I will request Mia mama to hang him

outside.”

85

Looks like she guessed wrong about the reason why Aizu walked towards the entrance.

After a glance, a young beastman shouting “Guooooooooooo! ?”was tied up with a rope on the ground through everybody’s hands.

His head was stepped on by the elf that had quarreled with him.

The other customers seeing this created a large commotion.

“Well, let’s go. Aizu-tan, help me pour some wine”

“……”

While in the process of being dragged away by her shoulder, Aizu once again looked outside.

The Magic Stone Lamp lit up the end of the main street, you could no longer see the boy’s figure.

“Damn, damn, damn!”

Bell was running, he had to run. Tear droplets leaked from the obscure corners of his eyes and flowed down behind him.

Passing through his head, was only the thing that had just happened.

Towards the lowly me, I could only feel shame shame shame, it was the first time that I wanted to kill the weak me, that had become joke material and was laughed upon, and in the end was sheltered.

“Idiot, I am an idiot! !”

That young man’s every word and actions digged into my heart.

Weak, Poor, Frail, Fragile, Delicate, Spineless, Flimsy, Powerless, Vulnerable, Lame.

This is already not even a situation of trying to become closer to her, but ＜Don’t know what to do＞ anymore.

86

＜If I do not do everything＞, I do not even have the qualification to stand in front of a girl.

The killing intent that emerged was not towards the young man, and it was not to the surrounding people that treated me as an idiot.

But towards the idiotic me that has not done anything, but yet still wished to obtain a reward.

× × ×

(Mortifying, Mortifying, Mortifying! !)

I was mortified about the weak me, who had to accept that young man's words.

I was mortified that I could say nothing about the powerless me.

I was mortified that to her, I was only a pebble along the side of the street.

What I was most mortified about, was that I did not even have even the slightest qualification to stand beside her.

"……!"

My crimson eyes glared far ahead.

The skyscraper facility that was built on top of the dungeon, opened the underground entrance, awaiting Bell. His goal was the dungeon, the highest point.

Allowing the tears to accumulate within his eyes, Bell hurriedly rushed towards the standing tower in the darkness.

3章 覺醒前夜

Chapter 3: Night Before Awakening

The water droplets that fell from the sky constantly hit the window.

Eina laid on the table and lifted her head to look at the outside scenery.

(It started to rain……)

The golden moon, that was here earlier, was covered by thick and heavy clouds, and a downpour of rain came down. The people on the outside were trying to seek for shelter, and soon, the people on the streets disappeared.

Inside the guild headquarters, Eina, who was undergoing this and that kind of work, stopped working, listened to the continuous raining sounds, and looked blankly outside the window.

“Ugggh~, overtime and also heavy rain, I’m really unlucky~ah”

“……It should only be a rain shower, it should stop when we leave”

Eina’s colleague approached the table that was filled with a mountain-like amount of papers, watching this heavy rain with a sigh.

It was currently 9 o’ clock in the evening. Inside the office facing the main hall, the employees were currently fighting hard against the overtime. The superiors were wearing an expression as if they were forced in a corner, while dealing with the documents, Eina’s friend and colleague, a human girl, said that it was enough, and leaned on Eina’s back.

“I know that currently we are busy managing the festival period, but I really hoped that the boss would be sympathetic to us on this side~. Not everyone is as capable as Eina”

“Get off me Misha, you’re heavy. Don’t hinder my work!”

“Huh, ara? Could it be that Eina has already finished with the matters of the festival?”

The colleague, ignoring Eina's light protest, looked at the documents placed on the table, her eyes widened.

She stretched out her hand into the thick pile of documents and, before Eina said anything, secretly pulled out a piece of paper.

"Introduction information about becoming an adventurer……Ah ah, Eina recently accepted that, that rookie-kun!"

"……I heard that I have to hand this over to team leader, so I summed up the detailed contents."

Feeling that nothing she said would help her, Eina sighed and honestly replied.

The paper that her colleague took recorded simple information about that person.

Their race, birthplace, experience, which <Familia> they belong to, you could say that it recorded all the basic information that is required to live in the Labyrinth City,

The name recorded on the top of the paper was <Bell Cranel>

"Uwaah~! ? He is only a solo, but he reached the fifth floor in half a month! This kid is really amazing!"

"That isn't the case. He did not carefully raid each floor. He only recklessly dived down, and luckily reached the fifth floor. And he almost died there"

He did not comply to the things that this side had repeatedly warned him about, said Eina, while lifting up her beautiful eyelashes.

She was sincerely worried about the state of the youth, so her own words seemed somewhat unnatural, looking at her own expression, her human colleague seemed to have suddenly understood, then gave off a wry smile.

"But, isn't it caused by the Minotaur that the <Loki Familia> carelessly allowed to escape? If you meet this monster, even if you're not a rookie, you would still be killed"

“That’s true, the Minotaur was abnormal……but for that kid, exploring the fifth floor is still too reckless now”

Eina took back the information about Bell from her colleague and looked at the data reference about that boy.

“From the fifth floor onwards, the monsters will begin to change, and the dungeon’s structure will also become extremely complex. For the current Bell, if he wants to pass through it……He will definitely die.”

The current bad equipment he had. Not even with a single companion, and exploring the dungeon alone.

Compared to these, he still had not left the immature ＜Status＞ of a rookie.

You think that an adventurer that only experienced half a month worth of time, could easily raid it? Then you’ve underestimated the dungeon. After considering all the elements, it was still too early for Bell to raid the fifth floor, this was the conclusion Eina had reached.

“Anyways. As long as I am still looking after him, I will absolutely not let him continue onwards”

“Overprotective eh—. Could it be Eina is concerned about that child?”

“——What”

While saying this, it felt like everything was empty in general.

Her friend’s casual remark startled Eina’s unprepared heart.

Suddenly what flashed through her head was, two days ago, the “I love you”

phrase that the youth had said to her before leaving. With that half-jokingly confession and the innocent smile, thinking about this, Eina reflexively blushed.

She, as a half-elf, recognized that her own pointy ears were boiling, Eina slowly and calmly took a deep breath then seriously looked and said to her colleague.

“……Misha～?”

“Uwahh—Scca—rry!”

91

Watching the silhouette of her colleague leaving the table and going far away, Eina relaxed the corners of her eyes and sat on the chair.

(I got toyed around with, really……)

In her heart, Eina reprimanded the boy that caused all this.

After all, it was just a cute boy that was like a brother to her, in her mind, she accepted this conclusion and desperately apologized. Against her overly realistic imagination, Eina's smile almost leaked out her saliva.

(……What are you doing now, Bell-kun)

Looking outside the window, the rain became heavier once again.

The endless crying sounds from the dark sky, like her own explosive feelings, violently continued to rain.

× × ×

A single step.

Kicking off from the ground.

"Ahhhhhh! ?"

The staggering blade strike past there.

The monster behind fell down with a short hum, and the resounding sound echoed as it scattered on the ground.

Turning around, a frog monster with a single large eye, had died due to the dark red liquid leaking out from the sliced off part.

The frog monster that uses its long tongue to attack adventurers, ＜Frog Shooter＞.

92

I looked at the monster that had its eyes sunk in without any

expression, turned around and walked around.

Ignoring the fatigue from my limbs, only concentrating my gaze at things that were moving, I entered the complex dungeon.

The flat floor and walls, from the ceiling, began to construct an organized maze.

No matter where I walked to, it was the same boring empty space, so I continued to walk on this endless path.

It was different than the morning explorations, the dungeon had a trace of cold air, and was quiet. The breathing from the monsters could not be felt at all by the adventurers.

Listening to the sound of my own footsteps, that headed towards the path in front.

"……"

As if I was possessed by a ghost, I continued to head straight ahead.

I did not bring any personal armor. My entire body was riddled with traces of monster claws, teeth or from being grabbed. The shredded clothing made it seem as if I had been robbed. My right hand or perhaps, the dagger that I use for emergencies, had already been offered countless monster's dripping blood.

(It is already tattered……)

My equipment was basically not adjusted, it feels that the me, with all these scars, was a completely different person, never stopping, and quietly closed my eyes.

Running, running, running, running.

Running from the bar and past the streets, and flying into the dungeon.

Only pursuing monsters, and running around the dungeon.

Swinging, swinging, swinging, swinging.

I admitted my own powerlessness, abandoning myself to despair.

Using the regret that gushed out from my heart as fuel, I swung the only weapon I had in my hands.

If I wanted to chase after that person that was far far away, how much troublesome hardship would I have to pass through.

The idiotic passion lit up and became my heart's will, allowing myself to take rash actions.

(……Here, where am I)

Then, right now.

After a period of time where I abandoned my own reasoning, the fire in my heart had gradually receded.

Constantly dealing with the monsters I encountered, my head had finally started to deal with my own situation, my confusion had begun to clear up.

The dungeon walls that I was currently leaning on had changed from light blue to light green. The width of the path has begun to become very small, the structure of the dungeon has also become extremely complicated.

The monsters that I had met earlier also became different from the low level monsters from before.

(5th Floor……No, it's the 6th floor)

Using my vague memory, I calculated how many floors I had descended.

Looks like I had reached a floor that I not achieved yet.

The me, who had completely no sensibility, continued to linger around the never yet achieved 6th floor. Heading back, this option had never been considered to me, whose feelings were paralyzed.

My awareness became thin again, as if I was stimulated and was constantly searching for the next prey.

"Ha, haaa……"

My breathing had started to become ragged. Looks like I accumulated more fatigue than I had expected.

How long ago did I enter the dungeon, even I did not know.

The phosphorescent ceiling in the dungeon allowed me to ignore lighting issues, rather, the brightness was just like when the sun was about to rise or when it was about to set. For me, who didn't carry a watch, there was no way to determine the time.

(……Here is)

Constantly walking. I went inside a wide room.

The room was square-shaped, and there was nothing to block my sight. There was only the light green walls that acted as the scenery there.

I headed to the center of the room. Then I looked around and could not see any paths at all. Looks like the path that I walked in from was the only exit.

Then, I finally understood that this place was a dead end, and prepared to turn back——At that time.

Bikiri,

"____"

Bikiri, Bikiri.

From the inside of this quiet space, there was a sound of something breaking, but I completely did not know where the sound came from.

My legs were frozen stiff, I instantly lifted my head and looked around.

Within the wide space that had no objects covering it, I could not see any monster's body. Only the sound of something constantly knocking entered my ears.

It was the first time that I had encountered this situation, so my brain could only think of one possibility.

I used my five senses that were enhanced by the <Status> ——

Relying on my sense of hearing, I searched for the source of the sound and walked towards it.

95

The light green walls of the dungeon.

The dungeon wall in front of me was emitting the sound, which was gradually becoming louder.

In a short period of time, the dungeon wall in front of me was broken.

“……!”

Monsters are born from within the dungeon.

It had been born right in front of my eyes, it was as if I had witnessed a life coming from within the walls of the dungeon. The speed of its growth was extremely fast, and instantly evolved into a state that could battle.

This huge dungeon was indeed the mother of the monsters that could threaten the humans.

From the crack on the wall jumped out a monster’s hands that struggled in the air.

One hand was clinging onto the walls with all its strength, the other was exposed outside. The dungeon walls messily fell apart.

At the end, a huge explosive sound ignited and the monster landed on the floor.

To express it in one word, it was a ＜Shadow＞

It was about 160 cm tall. It had a body similar to mine although, from his head to the legs, it was completely black and the shape of the two arms and legs were extremely similar to a human’s. However, without the hair and the skin, it did not feel like an animal and its entire body was completely painted black.

The only difference was the cross-shaped head with a face that was like a round mirror embedded onto it.

Just like a shadow that had turned into monster.

The monster that appears on the 6th floor, ＜War Shadow＞

“～……”

Gasha, a sound appeared from behind, turning my head around, another War Shadow was born from the wall, and was falling down.

96

A pincer attack.

No, two versus one. It was an unfavorable situation.

From the previously completely silent state, instantly —— as I had fallen into a trap —— the original face of the dungeon appeared.

“……”

The War Shadow that had no vocal organs, silently moved their bodies, quietly preparing for battle.

From the incredulous luster that was emitted from their face, it was staring at its prey.

“……haaa”

Breathing out a sigh, I once again gripped tightly onto the dagger that was dyed red.

I estimated that I had reached a state where I was not able to completely defeat them, so it was complete despair.

My brain had thought back to the scene that happened at the bar. The body that had cooled down because of the despair, instantly reignited once again.

Ignoring the instinct that was warning me, I rushed out to fight the foolhardy battle in front of my eyes.

× × ×

The War Shadow has very sharp ＜Fingers＞

In front of the unusual two arms, were three fingers, those three thin and long fingers were shaped like a knife. It climbs at a speed that was

incomparable to the Kobolds and Goblins, and with their two hands as weapons, they were ready to attack.

97

The War Shadow's combat abilities were among the best in the 6th floor.

The War Shadow was designated as the first monster that a rookie adventurer could not defeat in the upper floors of the dungeon, which is within the 1-12 floor range.

"——! ?"

In fact, it ended exactly that way.

While initiating the attack, I was injured.

The two War Shadows moved independently and, although it was very repetitive, they had terrifying power and speed. Using that speed that I had never experienced before, swinging their black hands around, my clothes and even my skin were gently scratched.

The long arms could also retract themselves. It had a decisive advantage in attacking range over the opponent, so it would not let the opponent come close easily.

It was completely different to the monsters I have seen up to now.

Unable to fight back, there were no weaknesses and no chance to escape.

It was, simply put, strong.

"……"

"Kuuuu——! ?"

The soundless attack was a deadly attack.

The curved hook-shaped black edges approached my eyes, so my heartbeat increased, wanting to jump above it and avoid the attack, but I could not do it because, right now, another attack was coming from outside my vision.

From the front, the side and the back.

With me at the center, the four black arms continuously attacked.

98

My body was like a top, being constantly attacked by the monsters. My sight had already been blurred by the huge amount of sweat and fresh blood, and unconsciously, my life was about to reach to the edge. Suddenly I felt that my life was in danger.

Once I noticed this, I calmly breathed out.

(——Why)

Although it was a bit late, but I felt that my own sense of anxiety was, at the same time, a strong and uncomfortable feeling.

My poor ability to think was startled by my sense of crisis, which allowed me to retrieve a little bit of cool, finally I could confront the current situation.

——Why am I still alive?

The first thing that I had to notice was this.

Why is my body still comfortable on the 6th floor.

Thinking carefully, this was indeed strange. For an adventurer that had just begun entering the dungeon half a month ago, it was impossible to survive on this floor.

After encountering the War Shadow and barely managing to survive, it was completely impossible.

I was indeed taught that by that half-elf. And I have also been warned.

With a rookie's <Status> it was absolutely impossible to pass this floor—— (——Sta…tus?)

The thought that instantly passed through my brain, despite only being updated once there was a crazy growth of abnormal numbers.

Does that mean my brain was filled with all sorts of ideas.

The <Sacred Text> engraved on the back seemed to be aware of this.

“Ah, Kuuu——!?”

99

The sudden shock that pierced through my body, brought my own consciousness back to reality.

While I was unnecessarily thinking, the War Shadow had directly attacked my body.

An attack that was like a clenched fist hit my shoulder. My entire body followed the flow of the attack and flew away, the strong impact made me drop the dagger in my hand onto the floor.

My only one weapon issued a crisp sound on the floor.

“!”

My own black shadow also immediately climbed to the location where I landed onto the floor.

The War Shadow that had just attacked and the other one moved their right arms that had stopped earlier on.

Its eyes became very small.

The immediate scene became as if the passage of time had slowed down.

My past memories suddenly flowed through my mind. Like a revolving lantern, the things that I had experienced so far began to replay themselves.

That includes the newest one which is the fateful encounter I had.

(——)

Then, it was the one that granted me the Grace……My most important memory: Kami-sama’s smile.

“——! !”

After a moment, I used all my strength to move my body once again.

Jumping up from the ground of the dungeon, I used my right arm to attack the eye of the War Shadow.

100

The long black arm passed through my cheek, even if my skin was scratched, I still used all my strength to fully grasp the fist in my right hand and attacked towards the enemy's face.

What was heard was a dull crushing sound.

"…… , ……! ?"

The fist that contained all my power destroyed the enemy's mirror-like face, and pierced through the head.

After being pierced, a black liquid leaked out from the back of his head. The War Shadow, in a state where it crossed its arms, had a little spasm, its entire body lost its strength, and fell to the knees.

"——Fuuu!"

I could not stop now.

Retrieving my hand from the face of the monster, I used a lightning-like speed to approach the War Shadow, that was frozen due to his companion being defeated.

I took advantage and picked up the dagger that had fallen to the ground, rushed towards the arms of the enemy.

The swaying body of the War Shadow prepared to intercept the attack, but I reached it first, so I won.

Instantly my dagger.

Towards earning another victory, it sliced off the enemy's chest.

"————! !"

The Magic Stone within the sliced chest, unfortunately, was broken.

It could not emit any sound and died, the monster's dark black body turned into ashes.

I, who drew the dagger out, remained at that spot, after looking at the large amount of ashes lying on the floor, I suddenly lost my strength and began to gasp.

101

“Ha——, Ha——, Haaa……!”

Allowing my lungs to violently breath, I stared at the sky.

Once the tension of being nervous was cut off, the fatigue appeared from my body.

Needless to say, this was certainly a very dangerous battle. Gently opening my eyes, I listened to the sound of my rapid heartbeat.

What exactly happened to my own body?

The enemy that was one level higher than me and which I was not supposed to have overcome, was defeated by myself. This overturned common knowledge, was it because of the sharp rise of my <Status>?

What exactly happened to my body, I completely did not know.

Problems that continued to appear one by one, made me completely unable to respond to it, suddenly it feels that my leg was about to break, seems like I reached my limits. I stopped thinking about these issues and began to move my scarred and tattered body.

Right now, I should escape as soon as possible.

As if I was being pulled by my re-awakened reason, I headed towards the entrance.

However, just like it was informing me that I <can’t escape>……
Gasha.

“____“

I stopped breathing. Lifting up my head, on the left and right hand side, the walls seemed to be like a spider’s nest, constantly splitting apart. Instantly, four, which is double the previous amount, of War Shadows were born from the dungeon.

……This is one of the reasons Eina-san had mentioned about why you do not venture down to the lower floors of the dungeon.

From the 6th, no, 5th floor, the frequency of the monsters being born was completely different than before.

I could only speechlessly daze off there, plus, a sound, as if I was cornered, entered my ears.

102

Turning around, from the only entrance, appeared a lot of monster eyes.

(——……Uwaahh)

One following another, the 5th floor monsters began to enter the wide space.

After the only entrance was sealed, I immediately entered a deadlock state. The War Shadows were also surrounded by other monsters.

Although it was like this, my head remained unusually calm.

"……"

I slowly walked over to the place where I defeated the earlier War Shadow and bent down.

Picking up the <War Shadow's Finger> that was dropped when it turned into ashes.

Equipping the remaining one finger out of the three, I instantly completed my gear.

Holding onto the dagger that did not have any handle, my hands split apart, and blood continuously flowed out.

——Let's do this then.

I, who was holding onto two weapons, narrowed my eyes.

I, who was cornered, did not hold the idea of giving up, but rather the determination and will of one who would die here.

There is a height which I wished to achieve.

I would not be stopped by this place.

I, who was surrounded by the roars of the monsters, was renewed.

As if I was driven by a burning imprint, I grabbed onto my weapons.

After a while, I began to fight the rushing monsters.

4章

だからボクは力になりたい。

Chapter 4: So I Wanted to Become Your Strength

The mechanical sound that warned about the time rang within the house.

The clock on the wall had its hands pointing at 5 o'clock in the morning.

Within the hidden house in the church, Hestia was constantly walking back and forth.

(No matter what it is, it is still too late……!)

Her arms folded, frowning, her face was showing an anxious expression.

Bell's growth rate is probably affected by his crush on Aizu and after looking at that kind of ＜Status＞, she was definitely unhappy yesterday night.

Holding onto her temper and went to drink, but when Hestia returned, what greeted her was only silence, Bell was not in this hidden house.

Because she was the one to tell him to eat by himself, and also because no one greeted her when she came back, she was in a even more terrible mood, as a result, she did not shower and jumped onto the bed, deciding to go to sleep, but……10

o'clock, 11 o'clock, 12 o'clock, Bell who still did not come back even when it was midnight, made her feel anxious.

Because she held dissatisfaction and complaints to Bell, Hestia could only continue to lie in bed with her eyes opened, she finally threw off the blanket that covered her body, stood up and went outside to look.

"Where did you go, Bell……"

In the end, there was no harvest.

The eye-catching white hair could not be seen at all, so she held a glimmer of hope when she returned to her house, but the youth's body was not there.

105

Hestia ran around the entire night in the streets, as a result she had a tired expression. It had completely replaced the anxious tension she had earlier on.

(Was it because of what I said? But, even if others brought trouble to this child, but he should have suppressed his feelings within his heart……Normally, he should have run to me and apologized.)

Thinking about when she had last left, Bell revealed an expression as if he was a discarded rabbit.

The sense of guilt that she felt at that time once again surged through her chest, Hestia shook her head.

This is not the time to be immersed in sadness, calm down and think.

(But if it was unrelated to me, then the reason why Bell would not come back is……)

He was involved in an incident.

Her composed body collapsed like a sand castle, and she began to sweat. Hestia, who was impatient, decided to once again search for Bell and headed to the door.

“——Bugyu”

The moment when Hestia placed her hand onto the doorknob.

As if it was calculated, the rectangle door headed towards her.

And gave Hestia a face blow!

At the same time, her boobs made a “mugyu” sound that crushed the sound of her scream!

Hestia trustworthy level immediately increased by 100!

Covering her face that was hit, Hestia groaned.

“K…Kami-sama……S…Sorry……”

Hestia, who had nausea due to the sudden attack, heard the voice that

came from above her head, she let go of her two hands that covered her eyes.

106

Looking at the owner of the voice, and noticed that he was safe, Hestia stood up.

“Bell-kun! ?”

As she had expected, the person standing in front of her was Bell.

She felt relieved. Hestia, who was looking at Bell, unconsciously began to shed tears……But, looking at Bell’s face, she was speechless.

An apologetic expression was faced towards Hestia. The red and brown wounds, the mud-stained body, his weary state were impossible to conceal.

Lastly, his lower body. The pants that were covered by mud, were already broken, and on his right knee, there were three scars that were torn by sharp claws. The black stains means that the blood had already solidified, looks like the knee injury was most serious.

Hestia’s expression changed, and she approached Bell.

“What happened, this injury is! ? Could it be you were attacked by someone! ?”

“I…It’s not like this, there isn’t……”

“Then, WHAT HAPPENED! ?”

“……I entered…the dungeon.”

The words that were squeezed out made Hestia completely forget about her anger, and stood there stunned.

“I…Idiot! What were you thinking of! ? Entering the dungeon like that……And also…FOR THE ENTIRE NIGHT! ?”

“……Sorry”

Right now, Bell was not wearing any defensive equipment. It was the same as being naked in the dungeon.

A single attack from a ferocious monster could be fatal. The multiple scars on his body also say this.

107

Looks like he was still holding onto the dagger he used as a charm…… Superficial, stupid, you could only call it this.

Using this sort of equipment to challenge the dungeon the entire night, it was really a simple idiot who did not want his life.

"……Why did you do such an unreasonable thing? As if you gave up on yourself, it's not like you?"

"……"

Looking at Bell's current appearance, Hestia also lost the mood to scold him, and used a gentle voice to warn him.

But Bell did not speak. His bangs blocked his eyes, expressing his refusing mood.

Hestia quietly sighed.

"I know, I won't ask. You are surprisingly stubborn, even if I ask, I know that there is no meaning to it."

"Sorry……"

"What, forget it. Then go take a bath now. It looks like the blood had already stopped, carefully wash the stains caused by the wounds. Then later, we'll have treatment"

"……Yes, thank you"

Finally, Bell gave off a slight smile, Hestia, who was holding in the pain within her heart, gave off a wry smile.

Pushing open the door, allowing Bell to come in.

Looks like the injury on the right knee caused a burden to his body.

Hestia, who could not continue to watch it, silently cursed her own height, while she attempted to use her shoulder to support him.

“S…Sorry”

108

“Today you kept apologizing. If you really feel sorry about it, then properly reflect about it okay?”

“Y…Yes……Sorry”

“You see, again”

They walked together towards the bathroom. Pushing open the wooden white door beside the bed in the innermost location of the house. The door was somewhat crooked, making the angle of the door somewhat strange.

Hestia, who was using all her strength to support Bell, suddenly thought about something, and spoke.

“Bell-kun. You should sleep on the bed. Okay?”

“Is this alright……?”

“Of course. I cannot let you sleep on the sofa in this kind of state, that would be rather mean, right?”

People who are injured require good rest. In order to provide a good environment for him to rest, Hestia let go of her own bed.

Then, after saying this, she came up with a prank.

Looking at Bell, Hestia gave off a evil smile.

“As an alternative, why not sleep together with me? Since I searched for you, I am already very tired……Fufu, you won’t refuse right?”

“Ahhh, that’s right. Kami-sama also worked hard. Then, let’s immediately go and sleep together.”

“……Wha?”

Originally, she wanted to make a joke, but it was completely ignored, causing Hestia, who had completely been countered, to become speechless. Her heart began to stir. Instead, she was the one who became nervous.

Looks like he was completely worn out physically and mentally, even his ability to think had dropped considerably. Bell did not even know what he was saying.

109

Damn, it is only Bell-kun……!

Hestia gritted, but her entire face was dyed red, her heart was also startled and her heartbeat increased.

Hug. I'll definitely hug you.

She could only think about rubbing her face on the boy's body.

Since he had already agreed. What has been said cannot be unsaid. Drools.

"Kami-sama……"

"……! Nyaanyaa, what?

She issued a strange sound.

Holding a trace of fear that she was seen through, Hestia waited for the next sentence.

"……I…want to become stronger"

"!"

She looked blankly at the boy's face.

His eyes seemed to be staring at something.

Hestia looked at the side of his face, took a deep breath, then looked down. She then made an "Ah……" sound and sincerely accepted it.

× × ×

110

Bell Cranel

Lv. 1

Strength: H 123 —> G 221

Endurance: I 42 —> H 101

Dexterity: H 139 —> G 232

Agility: G 225 —> F 313

Magic: I 0

＜Magic＞

[ ]

＜Skill＞

Realize Freeze

[Single-Minded Pursuit]

□ Accelerates Growth

□ Effects last as long as his feelings are unchanged

□ Effects are determined by the strength of his feelings

Suddenly, Hestia's hands stopped.

On top of the thin back she was looking at. The rules that were written on was as if it was like an ancient book, the entire body was filled with "Sacred Text" —— ＜Status＞

111

The ＜God's Grace＞ that presents a human's growth, Hestia stared at it with trembling eyes.

It has been one night after Bell returned.

Because of the extreme fatigue, he had slept for the entire day yesterday——Once Bell noticed that he had slept with Hestia, he suddenly gave off a scream—— At such an early time, the two of them, after all, had to first update the <Status>.

As usual, Hestia sat on Bell's back, used her god's blood to work on the carved "Sacred Text"……What was different than before was, Bell's numbers on his <Status> was beginning to gradually grow at an unbelievable pace.

——Too fast.

It was the first time that Hestia had granted <God's Grace>, which was to the first person who joined her <Familia>, Bell. She had only heard about the information of <Status> from rumors, but she was unclear about the specific details.

What way to speed up the proficiency rate, how to discover magic and skills, she did not have any knowledge about these information.

But, the granted <Status>, is absolutely not like this, this point she still knew about.

It was too fast. The proficiency growth rate. It is already abnormal.

This cannot be called as growth anymore, but rather a "jump".

(It is absolutely incomparable to the other adventurers……)

If the other adventurers grew at the same rate as Bell, then most of them would have been considered as a "Third-Class Adventurer", a Lv. 2.

Lv. 2——The elites of the adventurers, they were generally members from large <Familias>. The people beside them, it could be said that more than half of them were still maintaining their Lv. 1 Status.

Bell was growing at a speed 1 or even 2 times faster than the others, it was a rapid speed growth.

The proficiency growing around 10 or so, was only at the very beginning, then it will hit a wall, this was what she had heard from her God friends.

Half of the people were troubled about how to break through this wall.

(The reason that the growth rate became like this is……!)

What made Bell inflate up considerably was.

＜Single-Minded Pursuit＞ This skill that only Hestia knew about, she subconsciously bit her lips.

Even if she was a God, she still had emotions like a child——Jealous, she was swayed by her own emotions.

“Kami-sama?”

“!”

Hestia, who had stopped, was surprised, Bell slightly tilted his head to look over.

Hestia smiled and said “Sorry Sorry”, then she continued to work again. No, pretended to work. The update on the ＜Status＞ had basically ended.

(What should I do……? Should I tell exactly what happened to Bell-kun……?) A moment of self-confidence could lead to a moment of strength and arrogance.

Hestia already knew this. Not only humans, but it was the instincts of all the children. Arrogance will lead to accidents and accidents will lead to death.

Although she believed that Bell was not the type of person to think about such things, Hestia still had an overly protective feeling towards the boy, so she made plans for the “Just in case” possibility. “Just in case” she may lose Bell.

Trust and worry, the two feelings were placed on a scale, she did not know which side it would lean to.

(But, if I do not tell this to the child, it may feel as if I lied to him……) In addition, this may hinder Bell’s growth.

Not knowing about the power within his body, and fighting against enemies that are not evenly matched against him, how much growth will he obtain. In fact, it

was said that the nature of the ＜Experience＞ was to rise faster in terms of proficiency and strength if you fight against stronger monsters.

If the words that she passed on were false, then even if it was for good intentions, there was a possibility that Hestia broke Bell with her own hands.

Hestia's heart suddenly became silent.

(……Wanted to become strong, huh)

Finally, what Hestia decided on was trust.

Suppressing her own disturbed heart, she let the scale favor one side over another.

The boy's one phrase of "I want to become stronger", even if it was born because of love, it should still be considered as a resolve——It was something the perfect Gods could not do——Hestia thought she wanted to lend a helping hand to Bell.

"Bell-kun, can I verbally pass on your ＜Status＞ today?"

"Ah, okay. I don't have a problem……"

Lifting up her head to stare at Bell's eyes, Hestia began to talk. The abnormal growth rate.

However, she did not talk about the existence of the ＜Single-Minded Pursuit＞ skill.

(It really must be this skill.)

A lot of discovered skills were, in fact, skills with an effect that was shared between adventurers.

Having earned a skill for yourself is rather rare. There were many confirmed skills, although they had different names, with similar effects as another skill. Especially for the same race. Between the different races, there exists certain skills. Just like the elves have an magic support effect, and dwarfs have the strength power.

Amongst the repeated skills, the only one, or rather an extremely rare skill was referred as ＜Rare Skill＞.

This was a random name made up by the Gods.

114

(If I reveal it, it will be bad. Definitely bad)

Not letting Bell know about this skill was absolutely not a prank.

To be honest, the jealousy she felt for the Wallen-whatever girl accounted for 70%, no, 90% of the reason, anyways, saying this will cause a lot of trouble.

Because the other gods thirst for entertainment, <Rare Skill> or <Original>, they would react to these words. As if they were children, satisfying their own interest, while laughing.

Also, there were idiots that were invited to other <Familia>.

It was just like a gamer's personality.

(This child is not good at telling lies, if he was asked, he would definitely be suspected by others. Although I am sorry, I won't concede about this point) The specific conditions that rapidly upgrades the growth rate.

<Single-Minded Pursuit>, it was definitely an unconfirmed new skill.

In order to protect Bell from the demonic hands, Hestia kept the existence of this skill within her heart.

After being told about the <Status>, Bell was surprised. Hestia finished off the remaining "Sacred Text", completing her work from last night.

"And well, about the proficiency rapid growth. Do you have any clues about it?"

"N…No, completely……Ah."

"What?"

"C…Could it be……Yesterday I walked to the 6th floor and obtained……"

"Bu! ?Ah, ahhhhhhh! ? You did not even take your defensive gear, do

not casually increase your floor count!”

“S…Sorry! ?”

115

Hestia stood up from Bell’s back, while preaching. Bell did not even dare to wear his clothes, and continued to be scolded in a half-naked state, making him shrink smaller and smaller.

“Ha……Back to the main topic. Right now, from an unknown reason, you growth rate is too fast. We do not know how long it will continue, let’s just simply call it your growth period”

“Y…Yes”

“……It is just my personal opinion, but you are very talented. The capacity and quality of adventurer, you have both of them”

Bell’s current state was not just because of the skill.

Just relying on the discovered skill, it could be the cause for the rapid growth of the boy.

But thinking back about it, there were some things that need to be considered.

Although he was once on the verge of death, the boy had spent his life on a farm, without even a master, and only relying on himself to achieve results from the dungeon.

Even if it was this <Single-Minded Pursuit>——This skill that accelerates the growth, it would still require combat techniques and a nimble body, plus actual battle experience. When to attack, when to defend, when to avoid. Even with the skill, the one who makes the decisions is Bell, and not anyone else. This was his own “Strength”.

Bell, who had been fighting by himself until now as an adventurer, was quite talented.

“……You will become stronger. Then, you are also looking forward to yourself become stronger.”

“……Yes”

Hestia placed her hands onto Bell's chest, who bent his back on the bed and was looking straight ahead.

116

She revealed an uneasy expression and said.

"……I hope you will promise me that you will not force yourself. Vow that the things that happened this time will not be done again"

"I…I……"

"I will not oppose, but rather respect your opinion about becoming stronger. I will aid, will help, and even lend you my power……So"

Holding back her tears, Hestia hoped from the bottom of her heart for Bell.

"……So please, don't leave me alone"

The effect was instantaneous.

Bell's shoulders trembled, he widened his eyes, he seemed to start thinking about something, recalling the promise he made to himself, and closed his eyes and looked back.

Silence. There was a long period of silence between the two people.

"……Yes"

Bell lifted his head.

His expression changed from as if he was apologetic, to as if it seemed that he wanted to cry out, to as if he was happy, then as if everything was solved.

It was not a false smile, more than any words, it passed down the trust and belief.

The boy in front of her eyes will keep his promise, Hestia was convinced.

"I will not be reckless. I will try hard to become strong, but……I will absolutely not let Kami-sama become alone. I will not let you become worried"

“After hearing this, I feel at ease”

Suppressing the excitement within her heart, Hestia gave a slight smile.

After a while, she handed over Bell’s clothes and shyly said “Sorry”. He began to change his clothes, Hestia, on the other hand, stared at the ceiling.

117

(……Okay)

She decided to do something for Bell.

Tototo, walking past the broken floors, she walked next to the table shelf. Opening the middle drawer, she began to search. Searching inside the drawer that was stuffed with flyers and recruitment papers, she quickly found it.

An invitation letter that had ＜Ganesha’s Banquet＞ written on it.

(Hephaestus will also come, right……?)

Thinking about the face of the person who granted this hidden house to her.

To her, who was working seriously around the city, contacting her was not an easy thing to do.

In order to meet up with her, she decided to use this banquet.

The date it was hosted……Today at night.

Ah, Hestia revealed a panicked expression.

“Bell-kun, I will have to leave the house for tonight…no…maybe a few days. Is there a problem with that?”

“Eh? Ah, understood, for work is it?”

“No, although I was not going to go, but I should still show up at a gathering from my friends. It has been a long time since I saw everyone’s faces.”

“Then there’s no need to mention it, just go” Bell understood. Friends are very important, as if he was smiling to encourage himself.

Hestia felt that she was somewhat random, but she still nodded. She started looking in the closet. The closet did not have many clothing, after selecting one that could be considered decent, she began to pack her bags. Then she thought about how she would miss a few shifts at work and she headed towards the door.

Placing her hand onto the door, she looked again at Bell.

“Bell-kun, could it be, you are heading to the dungeon today again?”

118

“I think so……Is it no good?”

After saying that promise earlier. He would conduct himself a bit, Bell was slightly afraid while he waited for the answer.

Hestia smiled and replied.

“Ah, there’s no problem, go ahead. However, you have to consider about returning okay? You are still in an injured state.”

“Okay, Thank you——“

Bell happily bowed his head and Hestia left the house.

× × ×

The sun was currently shining bright in the sky.

The time currently is right before noon. People crowded along the main streets, so I was currently walking through an alley.

After Kami-sama had left, I wore my adventurer gear and left the house. Preparing to enter the dungeon.

Just like Kami-sama had said, my knee’s injury was still very painful. The 6th floor monster was extremely fierce. It feels that it would still need a bit of time before it was completely healed.

Therefore, I can’t force myself. Can’t go on an adventure . No matter what happens, I cannot do mindless things. But, I should do things

that I can do.

After having a clear target. Looking at that distant target. The day before yesterday, when I was still thinking that I must continue to strive forward, as if I had to catch up to the trend, but now it was completely different.

After being scolded by Kami-sama, my mind had calmed down. I…I already had been moving forward at the maximum speed.

119

It was unfortunate that there was an undeniable time difference, but if I wanted to catch up to Wallenstein, this is the most certain and closest shortcut. If I forced myself, then in the end I would be the one to suffer.

I thought back about Kami-sama, who was seriously scolding me, “do not force yourself, do not force yourself”, using her tiny mouth to say this, and finally I reached the place I wanted to go.

Before heading to the dungeon, there is a place that I must go to.

“It’s a bit awkward……”

A “Closed” sign was in front of the door.

I hesitated for a while, then made up my mind and walked into the ＜Mistress of Abundance＞. KaranKaran, the doorbell sounds rang.

“I’m very sorry, customer. Out shop is currently still preparing. Could you visit sometime later?”

“He came to Mia’s shop again, nya!”

From within the shop, the elf employee and the cat person employee were currently spreading the table cloth, but after noticing me, they immediately responded.

Regardless of which one, they are both very cute. The two of them, who were both wearing the same outfit as Seal-san, had delicate features and a sense of innocence, they belonged to different categories. I, who had recently noticed that I liked elves, heard her voice and became unconsciously tense.

“Sorry, I’m not a guest……About that, Seal-san……Is Seal Flover-san here? And also the female boss……

As if they noticed my words, they both looked over.

“Ahhhh! Isn’t it that person who ate and ran, nya?! After being served by Seal, completely ignoring her, that white-haired bastard, nya!!”

“Please be quiet, you”

“Bu-nya!”

120

“Forgive us. We will immediately call Seal and Mia-mama out.”

“Y…Yes……”

The cat person employee did not seem to follow the mood.

The young female beastman tugged at her cuffs, as if she was extremely scared of escorting the elf employee, I, who had nothing to do, looked around the shop interior.

It was different than when I came, the current appearance is the same as a tea shop.

Most of the adventurers were raiding the dungeon in the morning, which was different than night time, is it because the customer’s goals are not the same?

“Bell-san! ?”

From behind the counter urgent footstep sounds emerged and Seal-san appeared from within the shop.

Recalling about the last time when we separated, I really wanted to find a hole and dive inside, but I gathered my courage and walked towards her.

“I’m really sorry about what happened the day before yesterday. I did not pay and ran out……”

“……No, it does not matter. Just by coming back, you already have made me very happy”

I bowed down and apologized, Seal-san was smiling as usual.

Even under these circumstances she would not ask about it and gently forgave me, so my tears unconsciously flowed out. I used the excuse of something entering my eye, wiped my eyes and then gave her the prepared money.

“This is the money that I haven’t paid for. If it was not enough, I can give more……”

“I did not say such a thing. Just having your feelings is enough……It should be my side that should apologize.”

After saying those final words, I immediately said that Seal-san did not have to take on unnecessary guilt. *KusuKusu*, my body and hands trembled while I said it.

121

After Seal was pressed down by my pressure, she slightly smiled and shook her shoulders. As if she was relieved.

Then she used that slightly smiling gaze to stare at me, she seemed to have noticed something and clapped her hands together. “Please wait a moment” Then she disappeared into the kitchen.

Seal, who came back, was carrying a big basket.

“Are you heading to the dungeon? If so, please accept this okay?”

“Eh?”

“This is the dishes that our chefs have made today, the taste could be assured. And about that, I also helped out quite a bit……”

“No, but, why……?”

“I want you to taste it, is that no good?”

She slightly tilted her head, even I was aware of her feelings.

She wanted to cheer me up……No, it is to cheer for me.

“……Sorry. Then, I’ll accept it”

Noticing her mood, I smiled and accepted the basket.

While we were both looking at each other, Seal's round face was slightly dyed red and revealed gentle smile.

"The kid came?"

Uwaah, from the door behind the counter came out the female boss ——Mia.

As if she had suddenly appeared there, I retreated a little bit.

Among the dwarves, she would be considered slightly big. Whether from looking at her horizontally or vertically or even elegantly, she was still stronger than me.

"Ahah, so that was it, he came back to pay back the money. Doesn't it make people feel touched when they heard it"

122

"T…Thank you……"

"Seal, don't intervene. How is work at that side?"

"Ah, yes. I know"

After Seal-san had said her greetings, she left. Mia revealed a heroic (not a bold) smile, and used her thick fingers to point at my chest.

Then this person said something about "If he does not come, then this place will end it" and "If you were late one more day, I would have to go pick up my long-lost toy". If I was really a bit later, then my own life would have been in danger.

I was really lucky……!

"Seal, if you handed that out, then you won't have a meal during the day……"

"Ah, yes. I can probably endure it during the day, right?"

"Nya, why do you choose to endure and give it to that person, nyaaa? If it is an adventurer, then he could still buy lunch, nyaaa"

“No, this……”

“Ho—Ho—, I heard something good. So could it be that to Seal, the boy is her ……This?”

“NOOOO! !”

From within the kitchen came out a loud voice, but I did not pay any attention to it.

I swore within my heart that I will never not pay attention to things while in front of Mia.

“Go and thank Seal. I am more energetic than most people, if it was not for her plea, then you would have already been at the bottom of the lake.”

“……”

I could not laugh.

123

“Seal attempted to chase after you, did you not see it? Seeing that gloomy Seal when she returned, you see, that elf called Ryu would really take action. It took a lot of effort to prevent that”

I, who liked elves, seemed to have made an misunderstanding about the elves.

(But, if it was like this…….Chasing me……)

After listening to the words, I felt that the fire in my heart was ignited.

I really wanted to pay my gratitude, this was what I thought.

“……Kid?”

“What is it?”

“Adventurers who try to be cool are of no use. From the beginning, just desperately fighting for your own life is enough. Even if your knowledge had increased, it may not necessarily be a good thing”

I widened my eyes.

At that moment, Mia, who was standing in front of the cashiers, had seen through me.

She revealed a smile.

“In the end, the person who is still standing on his feet is the best. Even if the results were miserable. Of course, for those people who were able to come back, then I would use a big feast to entertain them. You see, those people are the winners in life right?”

Mia-mama……!

“Don’t make such a disgusting expression. It is already time for the shop to open, don’t cause any trouble for us, go away now”

Making me turn around, she held on behind me and pushed.

Even if my breathing had stopped, my feelings of gratitude had not.

Right now, the remaining pieces of trauma in my heart were finally being removed.

124

The words that the beastman from the <Loki Familia> had uttered, were currently being turned into materials to fuel me.

What I can do right now is to quickly grow stronger, not force myself and then try to survive.

The direction I should take was made clear.

“Kid, I will only say up to here, but if you died, I would not forgive you”

“No problem, thank you!”

Walking outside of the store, I mindfully called out “I’m leaving!”, then when I walked to the main street, my face was still blushing.

× × ×

Night.

The moon had risen up into the sky, the surroundings had already

become dark.

The moonlight illuminated the forests, the calls from the owls could be heard everywhere, and in addition there were many sounds of leaves falling.

The silent owl sounds passed through the forest, sailed on the leaves, and headed towards the grassy area, and landed at a certain spot which was their limit.

The huge wall.

Saying that it was a castle wall was not an exaggeration, the thick, tall, and sturdy <City Walls>

The interior of the defensive wall was created by a large rock, revealing a little bit of light, the sound of the bustling could be heard and easily broke the silence of the outside world.

The labyrinth city Orario.

125

From the beginning age where it was called <Ancient>, when the Gods and Goddess had not yet descended, there exist a few large cities in the world, at the same time, there is also the world's only labyrinth city.

The city walls that surrounded the city were in a perfect circular shape. From the exterior of the circle, there exist countless relatively tall high-rise buildings, and as it heads to the center, the buildings began to become relatively shorter. The city was just like a roulette, and was covered by scattered light particles ——Magic Stone Lamp.

The light that illuminated the city was as bright as the starry sky.

In the center of the huge city, it erected stone walls that soared to the skies.

Looking at the entire Orario, there aren't many buildings as tall as this one, it seemed to cut through the darkness, and creating a huge shadow, releasing its overwhelming dignity. The very first thing that people would see when they enter Orario is this tower, and would have their consciousness temporarily taken away.

Acting as the cover of the dungeon, this skyscraper facility <Babel> was in the center —— Which was like the name of the city, as the dungeon is the main feature ——This Orario city was able to flourish.

Orario had this special feature of a dungeon, and compared to the other cities, this country had much more adventurers. The root of the monsters that were spread throughout the continent was also here, the dungeon which was known as one of the World's three biggest mysteries, had <Unknowns> sleeping inside which no one had contacted before. And this <Unknown> had attracted countless curious adventurers.

Of course, there are more adventurers that were dedicated more to the benefits.

From the unlimited monsters that were born, they would be able to obtain unlimited amounts of Magic Stones and loot drops, this vast treasure, plus the heroic story of being able to defeat giant enemies. This had made the boring Gods and Goddess in Orario attracted to it, the ability to obtain honor, and with their adventurers, their reputations could be known throughout the world.

This was known to them as the unknown excitement, the great amount of wealth, the dazzling honor and finally the authority.

All of this gathered within the city.

126

Then, people who were attracted by their dreams ——there could possibly be a passionate person who wished for a fated encounter.

<The World's Liveliest City>

This was what Orario was called.

"Ah, isn't that the representative of the ultra-poor <Familia> Takemikazuchi-kun!

Hey ——Fuhehe"

"Ah, isn't it the Takemikazuchi that always had that bad and collapsing face! Hey —— Fuhehe"

"These damn Gods……! ?"

Of course.

Compared to the adventurers that were seeking the unknown, the <Gods and Goddess> that enjoy entertainment all gathering into the world's liveliest city, is very natural.

Inside a private land.

The unthinkable amount of Gods formed a huge group.

"Yo"

"Ohoh, long time no see—. Has it been a few hundred years?"

"Ah, four days only"

"Ah—since there has been so long that I haven't seen you—. You have also changed a lot—"

"Excuse me, although it may be off-topic, but is the venue for the <Banquet> here?"

A building that exuded an atmosphere of deceit was currently right in front of her eyes.

In the shining megalopolis Orario, only this stood out as different. Rather, it was extremely strange.

127

This statue of a person with an elephant's head on its head, which was surrounded by white screens, was sitting cross-legged.

The elephant was approximately 30 meters. As if it wants others to see his power and prestige, it was in a posture where the chest was stuck out, causing people who see this to produce strange thoughts, thus it became extremely famous. Currently it was being illuminated by numerous large-scale Magic Stones.

What was most surprising was that it was a building that was created based on history.

With light black skin, and had a fit body figure, the cool God Ganesha, not knowing how he thinks, but he used the money earned from his <Familia> to create this large facility.

The stronghold of the <Ganesha Familia> was the location for the <I Am Ganesha>.

The membership was not that good, they were almost crying when they entered this building. By the way, the entrance is the spot where we sat cross-legged.

“What is Ganesha thinking of?”

“Ganesha is really cool”

These few beautiful men, wearing the same outfits as nobles, smiled and walked in.

All of the members were Gods.

They were the guests of the <God’s Banquet> that Ganesha had organized.

<God’s Banquet> is a meeting for the Gods that have descended to the Lower World to meet up. There were completely no rules about which god organizes it or when to organize it. Just when they want to hold it, the gods that want to participate can participate. It completely demonstrates the inconsistency and unrestrained nature of the gods.

“To everyone who has gathered here today! I am Ganesha! This time, to have so many folks attending, I, Ganesha, am super grateful! Love you all! Then, there is also something that I want to say, this year, which is also the same as the previous

years, the Philia will be hosted three days later, and to everybody’s <Familia> Pleased to meet you ——“

The interior space had a different appearance than the building.

Set on the stage was a huge figure wearing a elephant mask —— Which was Ganesha, who looked exactly the same as the design of the outside building, he used his rather loud voice to express his greetings. The surrounding Gods, like usual, ignored the voice and continued to converse and laugh.

The venue was designed in the form of a party. On top of the pure white table cloths were various dishes, the scent of the food floated around to every direction.

Footstep sounds appeared. The service personnel in this vast space was running around, the band was waiting near the walls.

After observing the crowded venue, almost all of Orario's Gods had gathered together. The invitation of <God's Banquet> is delivered based on the organizer's <Familia> ability range, so the amount of people who can participate also varies based on the organizer.

<Ganesha's Familia> is one of most well-known <Familia> in Orario, so almost all of the Gods in the Labyrinth City were invited.

Hestia was also one of those people.

"Mmm! Waiter, quickly give me a stool, hurry!"

"Y…Yes!"

Among the bustling sounds, Hestia had summoned a waiter from <Ganesha's Familia> and was fighting with various cuisine dishes. With her physique, she could not reach the inner part of the table.

"(*Sa! Sa! Sa!)*"

"……"

After obtaining the stool, Hestia continued to eat crazily. The waiter, seeing this, had an shocked expression.

129

To her, the stationed food means that there is no need to be polite. <Hestia Familia> is a <Familia> that is poorer than any other factions of the Gods, to reduce the burden to Bell, Hestia completely ignored her dignity, and took on an saving atmosphere.

In fact, the clothes that she was wearing wasn't a luxurious dress, it was just slightly one of her personal clothing.

"Ah, the Loli Big Boobs came"

"Anyways, she's still alive"

"Oh, I heard that she was working hard at the north side of the business street. She even let the customers pet her in an open-air shop."

“As — expected — from — the Loli God……! !”

Of course, after making such actions, it would be very eye-catching. Regardless of which attendees were quietly eating their meal, even if it was different from their appearances, the Gods’ eyes were very sharp.

It was like she was being played, but Hestia decided to ignore them, and completely did not care about it. She was shoving food down her mouth, while constantly chewing.

“What are you doing, you……”

“Mugu? Mmmm”

A powerless voice reached Hestia’s side.

Turning around, what entered her eyes was red hair and a pure red dress that almost seemed like it was burning.

Slender body lines, and a sharp face, showing a strong and stubborn consciousness.

On her ear was a golden earring that still lost to the flame-like eyebrows.

Then what was most eye-catching about the eyebrow was that half of her face was covered by a black leather cloth.

A beauty with an eye patch on her right eye, was looking at Hestia shocked.

130

“Hephaestus!”

“Yes yes, long time no see Hestia. Being quite healthy is enough…… Although if I was able to see a more pleasant posture, I would be even more happy.”

After sighing, Hephaestus stroked her long hair that reached her waist. The Magic Stone Lamp in the sky illuminated these red lines, it was dazzling as if it had sugar kneaded into it.

No matter when you look at it, the hair was always still beautiful,

Hestia, with a happy expression, approached her.

“This is great, you really did come. Coming here was indeed the right decision”

“What, first off, if it’s about money, I will not even lend you 1 Varisu.”

“H…How rude!”

On the contrary, Hephaestus did not have a friendly gaze, here we must first talk about the sorrowful story about Hestia.

Before Hestia met Bell, she was taken care of by this Hephaestus.

Although they had associated for a long period of time, but once they began living in Orario, Hestia , who did not form a <Familia> nor did she work, Hephaestus’s trust in her dropped dramatically.

In the end, she finally could not hold it, and forced her out of her <Familia> home, Hestia had relied on Hephaestus for a long period of time, she did not have money and could not find work, she could not even find a shelter to avoid the rain, in short, she had received great care from Hephaestus.

At that time, Hephaestus, towards this tiny God friend, could not get used to her, but she could not just leave her alone, and was troubled.

In the end, she gave her a hidden house within a church, even now the workplace was arranged by Hephaestus.

Talking about the things that Hestia did independently by herself, it was only adding Bell to her <Familia>.

In reality, Hestia tried to act as an adult in front of Bell, but she was a God that could do nothing by herself.

“Am I a God that would do such a thing! Of course, I was taken care of by Hephaestus many times, and thanks to you, I finally found a little way out! Right now, do you still think that I will bother my friends?!”

“After all, you were just eating a free dinner up until now”

“Mmmm……That’s incorrect, this is, something that will be left over

right……Compared to being thrown away, why not let me have a more effective use of, what is……”

“Ho ho, you’re really great, this ungenerous spirit. I really, am being moved to tears by this action”

“Gnuuuu……!”

Facing Hephaestus, Hestia regretfully muttered.

Click,Click

A clear footstep sound was heading towards Hephaestus from behind.

“Fufu……Still same as before”

“Eh……Fr…Freya?”

The Goddess that appeared within Hestia’s sights was a face that was superior, more outstanding to the other gods. It can be said that it was in a completely different dimension.

White skin that was like brand new snow. Her slender limbs seemed to be floating in the air, releasing a fragrance, soft hips and waist, if it was directly looked at, your reasoning may be in danger. The dress with gold engravings revealed her chest, the ample boobs that were wrapped by one cloth, the valley in between was dyed in the color of sakura.

As if it was the golden ratio, it was completely perfect.

Her long eyelashes seemed like they were completely enveloped by light.

A goddess with the charm of beauty, Freya, shaking her long hair, walked in front of Hestia.

“You…Why are you here……”

“Ahah, we just ran into each other. Anyways, long time no see —, so let’s have a stroll around the venue.”

“To…Too hasty, Hephaestus”

“Are there any problems, Hestia?”

“Not really……”

The Goddess of Beauty asked while smiling.

Hestia pouted and said.

“I am just not good at dealing with you”

“Fufufu. I really like this about you, you know?”

Hestia waved her hand, expressing that she should not be like this.

Freya, who was on a completely different level in terms of appearance compared to the other gods, was known as a ＜Goddess of Beauty＞, she was also the most beautiful person among the gods.

To the gods that were basically fickle and lascivious, the ability that they want while drooling was ——＜Beauty＞, all the Beauty Gods are equipped with it. The lower world people seeing this, will also be attracted towards it.

However, the ＜Beauty Gods＞’s characters were very cunning.

This made the other gods very troubled.

If it was possible, it was best not to provoke them, these were Hestia’s true words.

“Hey! Hephaestus-tan, Freya —, Shorty! !”

“…….Now that we’re talking about this, compared to you, there is a more annoying fellow”

133

“Ara, isn’t that good”

Freya, with a top grade smile, turned her gaze around, and waved at the goddess heading over.

Scarlet hair and scarlet eyes. Normally, her hair is tied up in a simple

hairstyle, but because it was for the party, she rolled it up. Wearing a thin black dress.

The second person that was difficult to deal with appeared after Freya, of course, she was also wearing the same expression as Hestia.

“Ah, Loki”

“Why did you come over here, you……!”

“What, I can’t come over here without reason? <Today is a Banquet —!> should be more accurate! If you want a reason, then it is because I have too much free time. Ha, you really don’t know how to look at the atmosphere, Shorty”

“……! ……! !”

“What an exaggerated expression, Hestia”

Loki, who was two heads taller, attempted to act as an fool, Hestia did not have any good expressions.

Facing her, Hestia had nothing to say.

This women, is an enemy.

“Really long time no see, Loki. I also met Hestia and Freya, today really isn’t easy.”

“Ah —, indeed it has been a long time……Mmm, there are also faces that I did not wish to see here as well”

Widening her tiny eyes, Loki sent a smile towards the silver-haired goddess.

Freya, holding onto her eyebrows and seducing the waiter who had brought in the glass cups, closed her eyes, without losing her smile.

“What is it, did you meet up somewhere else?”

“We just ran into each other. Although saying this, we basically did not talk.”

“Hmmm ——, Ah, Loki, the fame about your <Familia> has often been heard recently? Looks like you’re doing well”

“Not really, if the successful Hephaestus-tan also says this, then I could be considered as well-known —……However, those kids can be considered as my pride”

After talking about the formation of her <Familia>, Loki used her hands to cover up her embarrassment, her expression was completely hidden.

Hestia, who was listening, suddenly thought of a question.

“Hey, Loki. I heard that in your <Familia> there is a Wallen-whatever person, right?”

“Ah, <Sword Princess>, right? I also want to hear about it”

“Eh? The Shorty also wanted to request something of me, will it be raining lava tomorrow? Armageddon! Ragnarok ! I’m getting this kind of feeling!”

I’ll bite you to death, you bastard, thought Hestia.

“……I’ll ask you. The rumored <Sword Princess>, is there any relationship with a male or partner?”

“Idiot, Aizu is my darling. I will absolutely not let her marry out, no matter who it is. There are people who have attempted to approach her, but they have all been crushed”

“Tcch!”

“Why are you clicking your tongue here……”

Under Loki’s protection, Aizu Wallenstein was almost treated as a treasure.

She was sure that she did the same to Bell. Hestia thought that how nice it would be if she had a partner, this type of dark thought.

From beside her, Hephaestus suddenly noticed one thing, then said.

“Although I am talking about it now, but Loki wearing a dress is really rare?

You’ve always been wearing male clothing”

“——Fuhehe, about this, Hephaestus-tan. I heard that there was a Shorty that was hurriedly preparing to go to a party……”

Secretly aiming at Hestia, Loki approached the shorty herself.

“A poor god that could not even afford to wear a dress, what a joke”

(Aaannnoooyyyiiinnnggg! !)

In front of her, Loki had a triumphant expression, Hestia immediately was about to explode.

Every single time. Loki and I did not really have any interaction, the first time we met was not even a century ago. Even so, this fellow has always been like this when we meet up……No, it was as if she meets up with me because she wanted to play around with me

To be honest, there is no reason to say anything more. That is because there is a thing she doesn’t have, but Hestia does.

Tada, it was the huge valley in front of her chest.

“Hmmm ——! ! This fellow really is funny! In order to mock me, she even brought out her flat chest, Loki, you really have talent for making jokes!”

“What! ?”

“Ahah, sorry sorry, not a talent for making jokes, but talent for digging!

……Specifically a talent for digging your own grave! !”

This time, not only was Hestia’s face was red, Loki’s face also instantly turned red.

Currently, the dress that Loki was wearing had a high degree of exposure. The pitiful chest that was like a grassy plain was blowing in the wind.

Hephaestus was holding one arm and looked around with an expression of……”It’s begun again”.

Freya, who was drinking fruit wine, was smiling with an elegant expression as usual.

The two of them had above average boobs that were wrapped around by their gorgeous dress.

“Anyways, to what extent do you have to disappoint men with that motherless chest! It is like the despair when facing a cliff, idiot! ? Oh, I think I said something very nice today!”

“It isn’t nice at all you idiottttttttttttttttttttttt! !”

“Fumyuguuuuuuu! ?”

Loki, with tears in her eyes, finally fought against Hestia.

Using her two hands to grasp onto the soft cheeks, she pulled.

Pulling them in all directions.

Hestia, who also had tears, began to fight back, her short hands and legs could not reach Loki, every single attack hit empty air.

“Oh, it began”

“Loli Big Boobs vs. Loki Boobless……!”

“I bet that the Loli Big Boobs would win, 10000 Varisu”

“The Boobless will in the end be careless, 10 Elixirs”

“Loki-tan who was beaten, I will comfort her with all my strength, All my Star Fragments”

“It became a gamble.”

The gods were all in an uproar.

This fellow……, when everyone is fighting over this, Hephaestus had already given up.

Loki’s hand pinched the long face, and Hestia’s body shook.

Shake,shake,shaking

Continued and continued, to shake.

“……Hmmm,Hmmm. T…Today, we’ll end it here……”

((((((She’s totally shaken……))))))

Loki with an unhappy expression, flung Hestia to the ground.

Without even glancing at the girl rolling on the floor, Loki turned away and left while trembling.

The figure of the victor and the loser of the battle.

“Mmmm……! Next time you come, don’t let such pitiful things enter my sight, you loser dog!”

“Such up you idiot! I’ll remember thisssss! !”

Loki finally could not hold back, and fled from the venue.

As expected, everyone was holding this idea while they left Hestia’s side.

“She’s really become soft, that Loki……”

“Instead of saying that she became soft……why not say that she completely became a child…… “

After Freya muttered loudly, Hephaestus replied with a sincerely distressed expression.

Freya smiled and stroked her own hair.

“Before coming to the Lower World, in order to pass time she would fight against other gods right? She is definitely cuter now. No matter how you say, she is not dangerous at all”

“Speaking of which, you and Loki had a long friendship?”

“No. The same as you two”

Hephaestus lifted up Hestia from behind, and she stood up.

We just have an illfated relationship, she smiled towards Freya.

“Loki seems to like kids very much. So it became like this.”

“……Although sadly, I have to agree about the point about liking children.”

“Heh, didn’t you say before <Children> are not willing to enter my <Familia>……Is it because right now you have a child in your <Familia> called Bell?”

“Fufun, well. Giving this child to me seems like a waste”

“I remember that it was a white-haired, red eyed human? When you came to report that you created a <Familia>, I was really shocked……”

Beside Hephaestus, who was nodding her head, Freya moved slightly.

Coughing, she placed her glass onto the table and lifted up her hair.

“Then, please excuse me”

“Uh, just this? Freya, didn’t you have something to do?”

“It’s enough already. I already confirmed the things that I wanted to hear……”

“……You, after coming here, you did not make any moves to listen to other people’s conversation?”

Hephaestus, who had moved together with her since the beginning of the party, made a surprised expression.

Freya ignored her, and used a slightly different smile and lowered her head to look at Hestia.

Hestia blinked.

“……And, I have already had enough of the men here”

< < < < < < I won’t let you get away with this > > > > > >
139

“……”

"……"

Then goodbye, after saying this, she disappeared from the venue.

Only leaving Hestia and Hephaestus to make a subtle expression, and they looked at each other's expression.

"As expected, Freya is also a <Goddess of Beauty>……What a slut"

"Well, if Freya and the others do not manage love and lust, who will manage it then……"

"And, she is not really conscious about her <Familia>. If she opposes the other gods……she will be hated by her kids"

"It feels that if Freya smiles slightly, she will easily refill her <Familia> members……"

After sighing, Hephaestus used her hand to stroke her eyepatch.

This was her habit. Simply put, if she feels dissatisfied or something is unacceptable, she will make this action.

Seeing this action, Hestia sighed herself.

"Then, what are you up to? I only wanted to see everybody's faces, are you preparing to head back?"

Trembled, Hestia's shoulder's trembled.

She recalled about her original purpose.

"If you are planning to stay, what are you preparing to do? Shall we have a drink like the past times?"

"Ah, ahh, about that……"

Facing the suddenly panicking Hestia, Hephaestus tilted her head.

140

Her line of sight was wavering between the slender neck and the red hair, Hestia finally determined her resolve, then cleared her throat.

"About this……There is something I want to request from

Hephaestus……”

“……”

Suuu, the red colored left eye became narrow.

The usual intimate atmosphere suddenly changed, and become a serious atmosphere.

It was the exact same posture as when she had said that she would not lend any money.

“Up until this point, you still wish to request something of me? You, did you think carefully about what you have just said?”

“Uhhhhh, what was it……?”

“You will not bother me, isn’t that what you said?”

Ah ah, she did say it, so Hestia gave off an empty laugh.

A glare as if she was seeing garbage in front of her. Within her heart, Hestia had an impulse to take back what she had just said, but she attempted to endure it.

However, once she thought about Bell’s face, her heart was suddenly motivated again.

With a half-baked resolve where it was possible to be hated by her own friend, Hestia came to this <God’s Banquet>, to achieve her goal.

“……Incidentally, I’ll still hear it. What—Are—You— requesting from me?”

In front of her was an angry red-eyed, red-haired god, Hephaestus.

The <Familia> created by her, who was known as a Fire God in heaven, was the only one who did not rely on the income from adventurers to operate.

Even if it was inside the Labyrinth city, which is impossible to survive in without relying on the dungeon, the special <Hephaestus Familia>, is a large <Familia> that every adventurer that lived here knew about.

141

You can say it was a famous brand.

The famous and well-known brand <Familia> with many talents that were developed, is better than over a hundred products. Besides from Orario, many cities ——Even worldwide, were attracted by her <Familia>, that's right, a <Blacksmith> <Familia>.

Towards the permanent president of <Hephaestus Familia>, Hestia shouted out her wish.

"For Bell-kun……the child in my <Familia>, please make a weapon!"

142

15章
女神のイタズラ

Chapter 5: The Goddess' Prank

“*Buaa*”

“⁓”

Quickly dodging the incoming claws, the hostile attack did not cause damage and flew in front of my eyes.

The goblin’s cries resounded through the light blue walls of the dungeon.

I observed the excited monster, while flashing past the swinging arms, causing the goblin to consecutively throw two or three empty swings.

(Right! Left!……Diagonal!)

Side step, backward step.

The ground was connected to various narrow passages, it was a wide square-shaped structure. I was mindful of not being forced into the corner, while concentrating on dodging the attacks. The unique warm atmosphere of the dungeon licked my skin.

I do not know whether the goblin, that was swinging his short arms and legs,chasing after me, was stubborn or just simple. I drilled pass my opponent’s swinging arm, dodging the fast it unleashed. I was focusing on my touch of my feet and knees while pushing off the ground, while performing a dance that never intersects with the goblin.

“*Gigyi~…Jaa*”

“!”

The goblin was angry because he could not catch his opponent, its large eyes shined brightly with rage, but just at this moment.

An alarming sound rang within my mind.

Was it the goblin who was screaming ——No, it was not because of

this. It was because in the corner of my sight, a monster was latched onto the wall and was about to jump off.

“*Gege*!”

A large shadow that completely enveloped me up to the head dived down!

“Nnnn!”

I twisted my body and dodged the surprise attack in the nick of time.

What escaped my sight, crossing through with four legs, was a lizard-like silhouette.

On top of its dry brown skin, a thin tongue came hissing out from the mouth that was cracked open up till the side . Including its long tail, the full length should be the same height as me.

The monster that climbs on the wall ＜Dungeon Lizard＞.

It appears within the 2nd to 4th floor of the dungeon, it was a member of the low-level Monsters, along with the Goblin and Kobolds.

“——Fuuu!”

While it was looking for a moment, I disregarded the goblin and headed straight towards the dungeon lizard.

The dungeon lizard can use its four limbs to latch onto the walls and ceiling, allowing them to freely climb around, so in order to get rid of this tricky monster, who can move to a difficult location, you must wait until it landed onto the floor.

Because I was caught off guard, so I was not able to make a counterattack, I constantly dodged the goblin’s attack that was accumulated with anger, and at this moment, I exploded.

I became a bullet.

“Ahhh ahh ahhh ahh ! !”

“*Gege*? !”

The dungeon lizard that was facing away, suddenly noticed the crisis it was in, its confused expression seems as if it wanted to flee from the spot, but in terms of speed, I was the faster one.

I held my dagger, which was part of my equipment, in a reversed-grip, jumped off the ground and plunged downwards. Forcing the dagger to enter the back of the monster and the blade easily cut through its scales.

Kakin, Hitting it felt very tough, I do not know whether if it was because that hit had damaged the magic stone, but the dungeon lizard that was pierced, trembled and fell down as if it had lost all its strength.

Although it did not turn into ashes, but it couldn't even manage a slight twitch at all.

"*Gyiiiii*"

The goblin cried. There were still enemies remaining.

I pulled out my dagger from the corpse of the dungeon lizard, and decisively made a bold move. I watched the goblin, and removed the backpack on back——and let the strap fall down from my shoulders.

Then, I imposingly threw the bag out.

"! ? "

The large luggage became a terrible missile. The Monster stared at it.

I stared at the backpack in the air that I threw, and it beautifully struck the dumbfounded goblin.

"*Higee*"

The heavy crashing sound rang out, it was as if the goblin bounced up and flew backwards.

After having my <Strength> ability updated, plus the heavy loot in my bag, an item thrown with all my power has the power to defeat a small monster.

The goblin held onto the backpack and continued roll and roll, roll and roll.

"…… *Guuu*"

Finally, it gradually stopped rolling, the goblin had a convulsion for a while, then its head was suddenly slanted.

I carefully watched the quiet monster, and after a while I confirmed the battle had ended, relieved my shoulders and let loose a big breath.

I put away the dagger and relaxed my fighting posture.

"……Good"

I stretched my body on the spot, the condition of my knee……Yes, it feels good.

The injured leg can already move completely, saying that it was healed was also okay. I could not help but show a eased smile.

"……Did I become stronger?"

My current location was the 4th floor of the dungeon. I confirmed that there were no presences of Monsters in the surroundings while recalling the earlier battle.

Despite that it became a one vs. two, which was unfavorable to me, but I still easily acted as the opponent for the dungeon lizard and goblin. My body's response was quite good, and I was able to not worry about the situation of my injury.

That's what it means for I, an Adventurer, to have my abilities increased.

I could truly feel that changes of my ＜Status＞. Just as Kami-sama had said, I had taken a big stride forward in terms of growth compared to before.

……The days are getting closer, I anxiously thought.

Then shaking off that anxiety, I prayed in my heart, hoping for that day to come.

Even if I am confused about whether my own strength is evil or just an extravagant hope, I also want to chase up to the person that is standing far away from me.

Quietly, my thoughts about her began to fill up my heart.

147

Afterwards, I recovered the Magic Stone Fragment from the fallen Dungeon Lizard and Goblin, today's dungeon exploration is also over. I have to take into account of the path to return, so it was about time to head back above ground. I once again filled up my luggage, in order to exchange it to gold, then I walked towards the ground, this is the fourth time I had set on this road of return.

I walked according to my memories, and walked up from the 4th to 1st floor for a total of 3 floors of stairs.

I easily defeated the Kobold and Goblin that I encountered on the way back, it should already be evening outside, the sky should have been painted an orange color picture.

When I climbed up half of the floors until I reach the first floor, I could clearly see other Adventurers like me, because there is only one exit in the dungeon, so naturally Adventurers will meet up when returning from the dungeon.

It was visible everywhere that there are dwarves and elves that were wearing higher level equipment weapons and armors compared to the pitiful armor I was wearing, my voice was suddenly blocked, I held on to my psychological fear, while quickly walked past.

(Speaking of which, Is Kami-sama not coming back today too……)

Kami-sama had already went to her friend's gathering for two days, she, herself, said that she would not be home for a few days, so it wasn't something to worry about.

Perhaps because I haven't seen Kami-sama, my heart felt empty.

What are you doing, Kami-sama.

"Ah, I'm here."

After crossing a extremely wide tunnel called the ＜Start of the Road＞, a large hole that links to the ground appeared.

The height was approximately 10 meters tall, the diameter was almost the same length, it was similar to a round cylinder shape. Inside the

round cylinder, there were gentle stairs in it, causing it to form a large spiral.

148

Several grounds of adventurers stepped onto the silver stairs, I also followed them.

After a while, I finally crossed the final step of the stairs. My sight was suddenly widened, and the artificial smell entered my nose.

The white walls of the large tower <Babel> was constructed directly on top of the dungeon, I am currently at one of their underground floors.

Currently I have reached a wide-opened space with a large hole in the center. It was unjustifiably wide, saying that it can house thousands of adventurers isn't an exaggeration, and even after all that, there will still be extra spaces.

It was constructed so that it has an atmosphere of a temple, making it so that it did not feel that there was a Monster's den directly below it, how can I put it, it was filled with a majestic atmosphere. If people say that this location as for the people to offer a tribute to the Gods, maybe some people would believe it. This large hall was condensed with craftsmanship.

The large hall was blue and white for the most part, the surrounding was filled with names of adventurer carved onto the black rock slates, the long and thick pillar separated the numerous furnishings that was impossible to be counted. Looking above, you will see a corner of the ceiling being filled by the blue sky, there is no artwork that can depict the sky more complex than this one.

Reaching this spot means that it is an absolutely safe area. I relaxed my nerves naturally, and the hidden fatigue pressed onto my back.

(……What?)

A large number of adventurers and supporters, who were wearing backpacks, were crowded together. In order to not hinder the people coming from behind, I moved over to the wall. Suddenly, an unusual scene appeared in front of my eyes.

The huge cargo, in box shapes, were mounted with wheels on it, it is estimated that it was a transport storage box. I remember that a place a little away from the dungeon had several of these boxes.

If I remember correctly……, it was used to raid the deeper floors of the dungeon, which is often used during <Expeditions>?

It was designed to store food and spare equipment, as well as loot and a large amount of items.

149

I obtained the hazy knowledge from my mind and stared at the

boxes……Suddenly, the box shook.

(Huh!?)

I was surprised and stared at the box that could move by itself.

This action was just like a declaration that it wants to come out from the inside.

Without opening the boxes, you could already imagine what was rampaging within the box.

C…Could it be……

Once I thought that the box could be considered as a cage, then simply activating my imagination, I could guess what was inside the boxes.

(Inside was a monster?)

I could even hear the <Uuuu> low roaring sounds from within the box, and that confirmed my thinking.

Is it really acceptable to have Monsters at this place……?

Babel, which belonged to the guild management, was known as the <Cover> of the dungeon, and during the <Ancient> era, Monsters coming up to the ground was common——The ones that were injured were not only just idiots, there were destruction on the ground in terms of a global scale——In order to prevent future problems, they constructed this huge tower, the main point was to prevent the

Monsters from leaving the dungeon.

Nowadays, because Adventurers had obtained <God's Grace>, they would go hunt the Monsters themselves. Hordes of Monsters beings shipped up above cannot be a mistake……However, I heard that the guild uses Babel as their base, and until now, they have not slacked off on their surveillance on Monsters. They were entrusted with the management of Orario, and until now they would ensure the city is not affected and take appropriate measures.

In other words, even if it was a mistake, Monsters are not allowed to leave the dungeon. Monsters leaving the dungeon and existing in the safety areas, this should be impossible.

150

However, once I began to think of this, there was a group transporting new cargo up the stairs from the large hole. I felt vexed and my confidence dramatically disappeared.

"This year they will also host that."

"Monster Festival right……"

"What is the significance of tirelessly hosting that?"

"For acrobatics right……Boring."

"Ganesha is really unlucky character, being forced by the guild to perform such a task, and have to flatter the public every year.

"That is because, no matter what you guys say, he is a <Lord of the Everyone>-

sama, ha ha ha!"

Amid the bustling noise, I overheard this conversation.

……Monster Festival?

Because I have never heard of that phrase before, so I racked my head. Probably forcibly capturing Monsters, shipping them box by box to the main hall is related to the so-called Monster festival?

That <Familia>'s members were all equipped with an elephant face

emblem. I, like everyone else, were looking at scene of them carrying the various sizes of cargo.

(Ah……Eina-san?)

In the corner of my eye reflected a head of short brown hair.

My eyes chased after the familiar silhouette. Yes, the person who acts as my adviser, Eina-san, was there.

She is a half-elf with pointed ears.

Her well-proportioned face was currently filled with a serious expression, it seems like she was seriously discussing with another guild employee.

(At work right……)

151

I held back, and did not say hello to Eina-san, who was busily discussing about cleaning up the documents.

After reflecting about the earlier conversation I overheard, I felt that the act of transporting monsters was approved by the guild.

I could tell that Eina-san and the others, who were guild employees, were related with this work.

(Although I want to ask her what she is doing……but I should leave it for next time.)

In order to ask these questions, and even bother her work, this was somewhat shameful. If it was heard by people I have not seen or met ……It feels like I would be laughed at for not knowing such an affair.

I harbored a few questions and left.

Remaining at the scene would not be any use, and my body had already completely exuded the smell of sweat.

I took one final glance at Eina-san, then I headed to the shower room on this floor.

× × ×

“Thank you.”

The person at the cashier watched as I left the headquarters.

After showering, in order to exchange the loot and magic stone into gold, I came to the headquarters.

Because I knew that Eina-san was not here, so I quickly finished my business and left the headquarters.

“It’s evening……”

The outside sky had already been completely dyed into red.

152

Just by leaving the guild headquarters as if it was created like a temple in the main street, the surrounding area became very noisy. Walking past the monument of the headquarters, various races will crowd together.

Orario had a total of eight avenue that can be called the Main Street’s avenue, it spreads from the center of the city to the walls in eight directions. If it was compared to a cake, then it would be easier to understand the view of Orario. It was just like a cake being split into eight equal parts.

To distinguish each avenue, people will call them based on their respective location, just like North Main Street, South-East Main Street. Incidentally, Kami-sama and I are living at a hidden room inside a church that was built between the North-West Main Street and West Main Street. Going along the West Main Street, it was also possible to reach where Seal-san was working at “The Mistress of Abundance”.

Currently, I am situated at the North-West Main street, as expected of the street that was facing the guild headquarters, most of the people that were walking in the street were Adventurers.

Because if you want to dive into Orario’s dungeon, it is impossible to not perform all the formalities at the guild, and obtaining the guild’s support. Without any exceptions, all Adventurers must frequently head to the guild headquarters, so naturally you will see many Adventurers at this street.

Based on the amount of Adventurers on the streets, accordingly there were many shops that were trying desperately to attract Adventurers as their customers. Just by looking left and right, what enters my eyes are only weapon shops or pubs.

Entering into a dark alley that was slightly away from the main street, there is a suspicious item shop that was acting as the entrance, inside there were also other various specialty shops for Adventurers. Inns could also been seen everywhere.

I was looking at the Adventurers disappearing into various shops, while walking aimlessly forward. Even if I return back home, Kami-sama was not there, so I could only waste my time.

“Eh? Ohoh, Isn’t this Bell!”

“Ah! God-sama”

I had just stepped onto the gravel road, and a figure in front of me greeted me.

153

The person had a beautiful appearance, his height was also much taller than me. If I could use some unsightly words to describe it, he is really a noble prince.

However, even if he had a different style compared to the humans and the demi-humans, the grey robe that he was wearing revealed it.

His unusual appearance, especially the unique divinity around his body made everyone notice that the person in front was a God-sama. He is the only other God-sama, aside from my <Familia>’s god Hestia-sama, that I had a deep relationship with. I bowed down to Miach-sama.

“Hello Miach-sama, are you here to buy something?”

“Well, I’m only here to purchase the ingredients for dinner, making a god personally get this……Bell what are you doing here?”

“I am taking a short stroll around the shops……Although because I have no money, so I can only take a stroll.”

“Wahaha! Being in a small <Familia> is quite painful.”

Miach-sama, who was carrying big paper bags in both hands, laughed in a good mood. Even if he was not a jolly person, his charm could be seen from his smile.

Even I, who was a male, could see it.

The Gods are an existence beyond us humans, no matter from an appearance point of view, there were a variety of looks from children to elders, but without any exception, all of them were well-featured. To the imperfect people of the Lower World, it is said that we will always be envious of their perfect appearances.

Miach-sama's blue hair swayed, he revealed a smile and the corner of my mouth also eased down.

Then I remembered about Kami-sama……Hestia, so I asked a quick question.

"About this, Miach-sama, do you have any news regarding Hestia-sama? She went to a friend's party two days ago, and, she still hasn't come back……"

"You're asking about Hestia? Mmm……Sorry. I don't have any clues, so I can't really help you."

"No,no! Please don't worry about it."

After being apologized by a God-sama, I hurriedly waved my hands, this was really ridiculous.

"First the party you're talking about should be Ganesha's Banquet…… But I did not attend the banquet that day. Maybe if I had shown up for a while, I would be able to understand something."

"That, could it be because Miach-sama was not invited to the banquet?"

"No, they did invite me, but I, as the leader of an extremely poor <Familia>, did not have any time to spare. I could not care about the banquet that happened a few days ago, and only excitedly helped as an assistant to produce our products."

Miach-sama's <Familia>, how do I explain it, in terms of fragile, it

will not lose to us <Hestia's Familia>.

For an Adventurer like me who ran away from home and was able to build a relationship with Miach-sama was because……Well, what people say about how the lower-class companions bonded together.

"Ohoh, right Bell, I'll give this to you. I have also mentioned it earlier, but this is a freshly-made potion."

"EH!!"

Miach-sama placed a hand into the paper bag, and from within, took out two tubes and casually handed them over.

Then he said take it and shoved it to me, I took it without any hesitation.

The tall and thin container had a liquid that was like the deep blue color from the deep ocean water, the liquid was moving back and forth like waves.

"Mi…Miach-sama, this is !!?"

“What, it doesn’t hurt to be kind to your neighbors right?”

His somewhat malevolent glance stunned me, but then his manly

smile appeared again.

He patted my back and immediately squeezed into the nearby crowd.

“Fuhaha, from now on Bell, I’m looking forward to your patronage to my <Familia>!”

Miach-sama waved at me while his back was facing me.

I suddenly understood and smiled at the silhouette of Miach-sama that was mixed with the crowd.

I hurriedly bowed once again, then I placed the newly obtain recovery potions into the holster that was equipped on my left leg.

Miach-sama’s <Familia> runs an item shop, despite that the shop is small, it was indeed an Adventurer-oriented potion shop.

Although I completely do not know how the potions were made. However, each <Familia> uses items were made using different methods to create a special recovery potion, as if they were constantly trying to differentiate them from their competitors and sell their improved merchandise. Miach-sama was a very good example, I had often been supported by <Miach’s Familia> within these <Familia> through their created potions. Although it was called a <Familia>, but the <Familia>’s activities that were undertaken were completely varied, complex and diverse.

There are business-like factions that sell items, and there also exists blacksmith factions that created weapons and armors, I have also heard that there are factions that go catch fish in the ocean. Although the only ones that are considered as a <Familia> are the group of adventurers, but in reality, this is not the case.

To be blunt about it, Because a God’s Familia is only for a God-sama to earn money, so it does not matter what activities it takes.

The way the <Familia> takes is determined by the God-sama, thus the faction it will go into may be perhaps affected by the strong interests that the God-sama have.

For example, <Wanting to eat the delicious food from the Lower World so they

will open a restaurant＞. Also, there are ＜Familias＞ that seem to form a country, so there are a variety of ＜Familias＞.

Just……No matter what they say, quarrels will break out between Familia of the same faction, without having strong core members in the Familia, the ＜Familia＞ will not be able to establish itself is the truth. Naturally, it will also need the ability to deal with unexpected events, which is also people such as Adventurers.

After all, Orario is a labyrinth city, plus there are many people who wish to become an Adventurer, so in this aspect, there is a tendency of becoming stronger.

As for me, I was suitable to be an Adventurer that is able to quickly earn money (As I have longed to have an encounter as an Adventurer), plus I also have no other special skills for other occupations.

In the forward direction of my left, there is a weapon shop that was placed on the end of the Main Street, I stared at it, and imagined my appearance of becoming a Blacksmith, it was too disproportional, so I exposed a wry smile.

“……”

Once I could clearly see the equipment related shops bundled together, the figures of Adventurers wearing heavy armor also significantly went up, I walked pass the front of a shop and stopped.

This shop was a weapon shop that was twice the size of the ones next to it.

It was painted in a bright red color that was like flames, and in this street where it was lined up, it was particularly eye-catching.

The heavy door was decorated with a billboard,and there were strange letters written on it ＜Ήφαιστος＞

Although I cannot interpret the text that were like the ＜Sacred Text＞ , but I still understood its meaning, it was the symbol that represents the world-renown blacksmith ＜Familia＞.

I was concerned about catching the attention of my surroundings while I, as usual, approached the display window.

Separated from the outside by a glass, it was filled with various swords that even outsiders could tell were precious. The emerald blades from the two swords that were placed in a cross, were an great sword that boast a frightening long reach, and a light sword embroidered with gold decorations.

I stared blankly at the sharpness of the sharp swords, then my eyes were attracted by another dagger.

It was a pure white blade that could reflect the light coming from the Magic Stone Lamp, it was diagonally mounted at the center of the treasure box, the dagger that pierced the treasure box, exuded a bright light as if it was the true appearance of the treasure box. The blade that was grinded from a monster's teeth was not only beautiful, it can also be seen that it was a dagger that was not inferior to the surrounding weapons.

I secretly took a glance at the price tag, there were none that were not extremely expensive.

(Looks like it is still a dream to have it……)

I had my face planted onto the display window, this has almost become a habit.

Every time I head back from the guild, once I have free time, I will take the opportunity to visit here.

As if it was designed specially for the top-class adventurers, the best weapons.

Although I understood that it was a treasure that would not match with me, who was still wearing the equipment given by the guild.

But I still wish to use it once.

……Really want it.

If this thought was heard by the other adventurers, they will all be muttering something like go train for another hundred years.

If I really wanted to desperately chase after Wallenstein-san's figure, then will there be one day where I will touch such an amazing weapon?

I foolishly imagined myself skillfully wielding those weapons.

159

I continued to stare at the pure white dagger within the glass, as if I wanted to pierce through the glass with my stare.

× × ×

“……You, how long do you plan to do that until?”

“……”

The moment while Bell was peering into a certain store’s window display and was anxiously hoping to drill himself inside.

Inside that certain store, a red-haired crimson eyed goddess Hephaestus issued out a sound that seemed to be terrifying and tired at the same time.

She was wearing her <Familia>’s clothing while sitting at the desk, her voice was said towards a kneeling round object that was bowing her head on the floor, no, it should be the tiny goddess Hestia.

This was <Hephaestus’s Familia> North-West Main Street Branch.

Inside the office of the famous blacksmithing shop with 3 floors, flowed an chaotic atmosphere.

“Don’t look at me like this, I am also very busy.”

“……”

“Even if you are not noisy, curled up into a ball like a bug, my drive will be greatly lessened and my work efficiency will decrease. Understood?”

“……”

“Hey, Hestia?”

“……”

“……Ah.”

Her tiny friend continued to keep silent and remained at the same posture, Hephaestus sighed.

The entire day.

This was the amount of time that Hestia had remained at the posture of bowing down to Hephaestus.

On the day the <God's Banquet> was organized, Hestia begged her to made a weapon for her <Familia>'s core member, Hephaestus had refused on the spot.

It was not because Hephaestus was narcissistic, but the products created by high-class blacksmiths that belong in the <Hephaestus's Familia> could be considered as the top quality and was widely acclaimed. Unless they were top class adventurers or members of the <Familia>, no one dare to meddle with the created weapons of <Hephaestus's Familia>. Taking a bet, Hestia should not have the large amount of gold to purchase her own <Familia>'s creation.

Selling it cheap due to their friendship was already unreasonable. For Hephaestus, as the position of the leader of the <Familia>, it was completely taboo to easily take actions for the weapons created from their blood and sweat by her core members, so she could not agree to it.

If she wished to order, then at least save some money, this was what Hephaestus had said——This also implies that she should also clearly look at her own abilities——Hephaestus did not tolerate it one bit and refused her.

However, Hestia, who had request refused, began to bow numerously after the Banquet had begun towards Hephaestus. No matter how many times she wanted to get rid of her, she would still annoyingly cling onto her, this made it difficult instead for Hephaestus.

In this case, she could only just ignore her until she was willing to give up, Hephaestus intended to ultimately leave her aside and ignore her. Hephaestus had thought, once she was hungry, she would help back home.

Thus, two days later had come after Ganesha's Banquet.

Hestia continued to sincerely request towards Hephaestus.

(What exactly made you so insistent……)

161

Hephaestus clutched her eyes, while making a gloomy face.

Even when she had dozed off, she would still maintain a similar bowing posture, Hephaestus was almost unable to understand her friend's feelings. Although it was beside the point, Hephaestus was startled when she woke up, and almost fell down from the bed.

Although up to this point, she had requested various things from Hephaestus, but this time the condition was not the same as before.

How do I put it, stubborn, or perhaps her expression of desire showed a strong will.

"Anyways, what exactly have you been doing since yesterday? What kind of posture is that?"

"……Dogeza"

"Dogeza?"

"It is the ultimate secret technique that no matter what you do, as long as do dogeza, you would be forgiven, and no matter what you request, you will be able to get it……I heard this from Take"

"Take……?"

"Takemikazuchinokami."

Ahah……Hephaestus recalled the face of the god she had an intimate friendship with, then at the same time, she scolded Takemikazuchinokami for instilling this troubling idea into her.

It was already enough, Hephaestus sighed, she could not concentrate on her work.

She placed the quill onto the corner of the table, leaving the remaining work that needed to be signed.

The light exuded from the sunset shone inside the house, it was very

weak, this means that it was approaching evening.

Hephaestus stared outside the window once, then she suddenly took up a serious attitude with a straightened posture, and glanced at Hestia. Hestia was currently revealing the back of her head.

162

"……Please tell me Hestia, why are you willing to do this up to this point."

Hephaestus used her fingers to cover the right half of her face, including the right-eyed eyepatch, while asking straightforwardly.

"……I want to become that child's strength!"

Hestia did not change from the dogeza posture and vented out a response.

"Right now that child is about to change! Bell has found a target and he is about to embark on a dangerous trip! The path for the trip is extremely dangerous, so I wanted to have the power to help that child! I want to be able to give a weapon that will open up a path for him!"

She stared at the floor, did not look at Hephaestus and continued to talk.

The act of requesting between gods was to expose all of your true feelings out without concealing them, this is also a ceremony to allow the other to see the other's feelings. If these thoughts did not moved the gods, it means that they had not revealed the truth.

"I have always been helped by that child! It can be said that he had been feeding me one-sidedly! I am obviously that child's goddess, but I have not done anything worthy of being his goddess!"

When Hestia wanted to wring out her final thoughts, her body became more rigid.

"……I hate that I can't do anything for him……"

Although the phrase was weak to the extent where it was feeble, but it was enough to move Hephaestus.

At that moment, she accepted the feelings, that could not be fake, of Hestia.

“……I understand, I will help make a weapon for your child.”

Hestia suddenly raised her head and stared directly. Hephaestus shrugged and looked at her.

“If I do not agree, you will continue to stay there forever like a crowbar right.”

“……Yes! Thank you, Hephaestus.”

163

Hestia wanted to stand up ——Was it the recoil from the long period of Dogeza, she immediately stumbled and fell down ——Seeing her friend’s red and laughing face, Hestia pretended to sigh.

Although she also felt that she was overly spoiled, but to the current Hestia, she felt that even if she had to help the other, it was not too mean either.

Compared to her stuffing herself within the house, currently she was able to at least reveal a slight smile.

“——Let me make it clear to you, you will have to pay for the price. Even if it takes decades or hundreds of years, you will absolutely repay the debt.”

But, it should still be best to make a clear distinction between public and private affairs.

It cannot only be created just because it was based on the world-renown <Hephaestus’s Familia>, it must also make Hestia feel the pain as she wanted to seek help from external sources.

If she had this sort of resolve, then it would be best to destroy it. Hephaestus stood up from her chair, walked over staggeringly and used her thin fingers to poke at Hestia’s nose.

“I…I understand. I will also do what I have to do, don’t look at me like that, okay, I will use my body to prove to Hephaestus that my love to Bell-kun is real.”

“Yes yes, I will delightfully wait.”

Hephaestus closed her eyes and straighten up, while she listened to Hestia’s words, she headed over to the shelves mounted onto the wall.

The slim shelf displayed various translucent small hammers.

“What weapon does your child specialize in?”

“Ah……A…A knife.”

While muttering, Hephaestus picked up a crimson hammer. This hammer did not have any excess decorations and place great importance to its functions, Hephaestus placed it onto the pouch that she often wore at her waist.

164

Then, she headed to the transparent crystal box and opened the lock. Inside the box were various types of metal pieces —— She selected a <Mithril> that was exuded a silver-ish light as the material for the weapon.

This creation work of this metal was lighter and harder than iron, and it was also far more easier than iron to forge.

Even if it was the slender hands of a women, and did not have any special abilities as a female blacksmith, it would also be able for her to use this metal easily, as expected as the finest metals.

“H…Hephaestus, could it be……You will be the one to forge the weapon?”

“Yes, of course it is. This is an entirely private matter between me and you, I cannot mix my <Familia> members into our problems.”

In order to perform Blacksmith work, this building had one floor prepared as a small-sized <Workshop>, Hephaestus was going to make a weapon there herself.

Do you have any complaints? Hepheastus said, she used the left eye without an eyepatch to fiercely stare at Hestia.

“How could there be any complaints! You have been praised as a Goddess of Blacksmith in heavens, if you are the one to forge it, then I

will be extremely happy about it!”

“Did you forget? This is not heaven, so I cannot use any <Power>.”

Based on the rules agreed between the gods, they were not allowed to use any <God’s Power> in the Lower World.

Although Hephaestus was a <Goddess of Blacksmith> that had created many divine weapons in heaven, in the Lower World, she was the same as the children without any <God’s Grace>, she was no different than an ordinary human artisan.

“I don’t care! You forging a weapon will make me most happy!”

“……”

She did not doubt Hephaestus’s abilities. Hestia’s unconditional acceptance of herself made Hephaestus frown.

165

“……Then for the work that is coming up, please come and help. From now on, you will have to work hard.”

“Ahah, leave it to me!”

In order to conceal her embarrassment and her freezing up, Hephaestus issued some commands, after hearing those words, she turned away.

While heading towards the door, behind her, Hestia seemed to be bouncing happily and chased after her.

(……Ah, a request that I will not able to accept for my customers.)

Hepheastus’s mood suddenly heated up, she changed her consciousness from the leader of the <Familia> to a blacksmith.

Hestia’s desired weapon.

A blade that will open up the road for an adventurer.

Have to create a unparalleled weapon that will not shame the name of <Hephaestus>.

(……Although saying this)

From her memory, she recalled the data about the user of the weapon.

Bell Cranel, human race, 14 year old children.

He is the only member of her friend's <Familia>, and received the <God's Grace> only half a month ago. That could also mean that as an Adventurer, he was a complete rookie.

(A fledgling Adventurer holding the strongest equipment)

Strictly speaking, this was a request that had gone too far.

The weapon's strength being too powerful will make the Adventurers decline, the act of relying on the weapon will hinder the growth of the user, and will not allow him to use it more skillfully than before. Also, it will not match the identity of the user, this sentence was also important.

But even if she said this, if she created a weapon that will match the identity of the user, it will only shame the name of <Hepheastus>.

Compared to the identity of the god, Hephaestus feels that she was more of a blacksmith. This natural disposition was rooted with the craftsman's efforts, and had not stopped her from creating weapons with her own hands, because this will counter her own principles. So if she had to make, she would use all her strength to create the most outstanding work.

Thus, she was in a dilemma.

(So, How should I do it?)

Referencing to her created works up till now, she was deep in thought.

Her goddess friend had brought a tricky request, while glancing at Hestia, who was happily following beside her, Hephaestus could only mutter in her heart.

× × ×

On the morning of the third day, Kami-sama still did not come back.

I was inside the hidden room in the empty church, eating breakfast by myself, feeling slightly lonely. Then I began to prepare for today's dungeon raid.

Even if Kami-sama isn't here, the things I have to do still doesn't change, it would be better to say that when she comes back, I could make her happy by saying <Earned a lot of money>, so I should actually work harder. I faced the figure that was reflected by the wardrobe mirror, renewed my spirit and inspired myself.

I equipped a pouch that carried potions on my leg, placed my dagger at my waist and lastly carried a backpack on top of my defensive gear. After wearing my equipment, I said <I'm leaving> to the empty house and pushed open the door.

(The injury to my leg has been completely healed, today I can dive down onto the 5th floor……)

A few days ago, I went on berserk and broke into the depths of the dungeon, as a result, I suffered great injuries and escaped, today I planned on getting my revenge.

Although I have not confirmed it, but my <Status> should have greatly increased, 167

so I should not commit such a mistake like in the past. Just in case, perhaps it might be better if I ask for the opinion of Eina-san.

I summed up today's plan while I left from the basement. After leaving the church that was like a ruin, the early morning's fresh air surrounded me. I entered a small alley and skillfully took a few turns, leaving the West Main Street. I accelerated causing the scenery and the morning overlapped.

A staff employee was preparing the open-air seats, a two-man team of beastmen were standing at the corner of the alley. The girl, that could overlook the road through the window on the second floor of the store, could not be seen.

"Heyyyy——That white-hair, wait a minute, nyaaa!"

I reacted to the phrase white-hair, and was shocked, I could not help but stop.

I turned around to the direction of the voice, at the <Mistress of Abundance>'s entrance, there was a female cat person with cat ears

and a thing tail, she energetically waved her hands.

……She was the employee that was together with that elf?

Because I had been called a ＜White-hair brat＞ so I remembered her clearly. I looked around, pointed at myself and confirmed by saying ＜Calling me?＞, she kept nodding.

I should have already returned Seal-san's lunch basket……I wondered what happened while I rushed over to the her who was dressed up like a waitress.

"Good morning, nyaa. I apologize for suddenly calling you, nyaa."

"Ah, no. Good morning……About this, what's the matter?"

Facing her while she hurriedly bowed, I also exchanged a greeting.

I do not know why her actions seemed to be very educated, then she immediately raised her request to me.

"I have something to request of you, nyaa, it is just a slightly annoying matter, nyaa, this is for you."

"Ha?"

"White-hair is Seal's close friend nyaa, so I wanted to request white-hair to hand something to that careless fellow nyaa."

Currently I was able to look carefully at what that female had handed to me, it was a bag loaded with money.

It was a purse in a bag-shaped with a metallic buckle, on top of it was an engraved emblem that I have never seen before, you can tell that this isn't created by a random ＜Familia＞, the purple purse was designed very delicate and cute.

Ah, although it is so cute……However, I do not understand the progress of this topic!

What does it mean by handing this to Seal-san……?

"Anya, if you just say this and do not fully explain, Cranel-san will

also be troubled.”

This time it was the elf shop personnel to appear, she was about to prepare for the open-air seats and walked over to our side.

Although this wasn’t the time, but being called by my name by the elf made me feel somewhat moved, she remembered my name.

“Ryuu is an idiot nyaa. It was Seal-san’s turn to watch the shop, but she slacked off and ran off to visit the festival, I wanted to hand her forgotten purse to her nyaa, even if I don’t say up to this point nyaa, white-hair should also understand nyaa.

Nyaa, white-hair?”

“So that’s it. I apologize for not explaining it clearly.”

“Ah, no, I understand. So it’s like this.”

The shop personnel called Ryuu magnificently ignored the cat person employee, who had an assured expression, and apologized to me. My doubts had also disappeared.

At that instant, the female called Anya that had been excluded from the conversation, who was proudly shaking her tail suddenly droop her tail, her face turned red and she lowered her head. Her body started tremble and shake, I started to sweat.

169

“Please do not take notice of her. Thus can we request you? Anya and I along with the other staff have to prepare for the shop, and there are no empty hands, although I feel bad about requesting you who was about to head over to the dungeon……”

“It doesn’t matter to me……However, is it true that Seal-san slacked off?”

“Slacked off isn’t exactly correct, Seal’s situation is different from the ones who were left here.”

Hearing that Seal-san, who always look so serious, slacking off, I could not imagine it, so I had to ask. Looks like she used her vacation and was different from the ones who was in front of him. It was not because Seal-san was working diligently at the pub, but it seemed to

be because the female boss allowed it.

The main reason is because Seal-san comes to work from her own home, so she was an exception and was able to have a vacation.

Then Seal-san seemed to have used this time's vacation to visit the <Festival>……

"……Monster Festival?"

"Yes, Seal went to see the events that were organized today."

It was a phrase that I heard at the Babel.

To me, who did not understand anything, suddenly became interested.

"Is it the first time you heard about it? It is impossible for the people who lived in this city to not know about it."

"Actually I had just recently arrived at Orario……If you could, can you please explain it to me?"

"——Then nyaa, let me explain it to you nyaa!"

The moment my words came out from my mouth, the cat person employee suddenly jumped between us as if she wanted to restore her reputation and said.

"Monster Festival is held once a year, it is an super large event that is organized by the <Ganesha's Familia> nyaa! Occupying the coliseum the entire day, and taming the Monsters that were dragged from the dungeons nyaa!"

170

"Eh……What, **TAME**? !"

Listening to the shocking things she said, I was deeply surprised.

Taming……as in domesticating it? Those violent Monsters?

"Taming the Monsters is not that surprising, white hair is an Adventurer, nyaa, so you should also have the experience, nyaa. The instant where the Monsters that had been beaten stood up and exposed eyes that wanted to form a team……"

“No, about this, I have never seen it……”

I do not know what kind of eyes that the elf shop personnel was looking at me, but she did not doubt it and interjected.

“Taming is a skill that exist, although it differs from each person’s qualities, but it should be allowing the Monster to witness the strength and causing it to be obedient.”

Causing the monster to be obedient……This sounds like another world’s topic.

“The monsters in the dungeon have harsh personalities and are difficult to tame, so generally most would tame the creatures above the ground nyaa……But because the <Ganesha’s Familia>’s core members’ strengths are not weak, so it was even possible to tame the Monsters living inside the dungeon.”

Even if it was me, I have heard of the name of the <Ganesha’s Familia>, even within the <Familias> in Orario, their strength is proven.

“That means they fight the Monsters, and the process of taming them is the show?”

“That’s the case nyaa, honestly it is just like a circus show nyaa.”

However, the scene is extremely intense, the shop personnel added one final phrase.

As expected, it was still dangerous.

“We actually also wanted to see nyaa, but mama did not let nyaa. Seal said that she will buy some souvenirs, smiled and bowed……but she left her purse inside the shop nyaa, Seal is such a clumsy fellow.”

“Anya, I feel that you are not in the position to say that to her.”

171

“Haha……”

Well, I probably understand. Leaving aside the topic of the gifts, not bring any money will also be troubling. I have received a lot of help from Seal, so I should repay it.

“Connecting to the Coliseum, the East Main Street should be quite crowded, please head over there first so you can follow the flow of the crowd and effortlessly arrive.”

“Seal had just left, so if you leave now, you should be able to catch up to her nyaa.”

They said that my bag will only get in the way, so I should just store it in the shop.

I, who was as light as a feather now, took the purse, stared at the direction of the East Main Street which was even further than the skyscraper.

Monster Festival……How does it feel?

I thought that I wanted to see it if I have time, while I headed out from the entrance of the shop.

× × ×

Currently the street was filled with loud noise and excitement that made others want to dance.

The current time was around nine in the morning, a lot of Adventurers had dove into the dungeon, right now, the East Main Street had gathered a large number of people.

Countless stalls were placed either in the middle of the road or by the side, it was filled with a fragrant smell, the sound of food being cooked constantly echoed in the crowd. The street seemed to be decorated with ribbons and flowers, making it look more busy than usual.

Above the heads of the people walking on the street was a rope that connected colorful flags, swaying as the wind blows. The flags had two different patterns, one represented the Monsters, which looks like a ferocious lion’s figure and the other emblem was the <Ganesha’s Familia>’s elephant head.

The beastman children, that was flushed with excitement, constantly pulled their mother’s hand, I heard the melody created unintentionally

by the footstep sound of the crowd. From the sky, the sunlight that shone down also seemed to be celebrating today, it was bright and dazzling.

Today, the East Main Street was filled with an festival atmosphere.

"……"

The crowd in the Main Street continued all the way to the end of the city's coliseum. A pair of silver eyes overlooked the crowds of people that wanted to see the Monster Festival from high up.

In the café facing the Main Street, Second Floor.

The shop interior used wood to create a warm atmosphere, and she was sitting by herself in a position near the window. Here you can see the entire street. In order to not let others see her face, no, in order for her white skin to not be exposed to the gaze of the crowd, she deliberately wore a blue, long sleeved female coat.

However, this cloth could not conceal her <Beauty>.

The evidence was that despite covering her face, the attention of the people in the shop was still focused on her. Every time her slender fingers traced the cup on the table, every time her thin chin was slightly exposed from inside the hood, everyone in the surrounding would be shaken up, there were quite a bit of people that would become motionless after seeing this.

The <Goddess of Beauty> Freya did not have to do anything, yet she was able to capture the hearts of the surrounding people. She quietly looked outside the window while wasting her time.

"……"

The large amount of Lower World people were covered on the street……A large amount of children.

Human, Beastman, Dwarves, Elves, all kinds of different race were inside the crowd, you can also see a few of the Adventurers that were mixed along with the civilians.

Freya seemed to be confirming each and one of their faces while

looking from a distance, suddenly a loud banging sound.

Following the loud sound of stepping onto the wooden floor, a few breathing sound approached this location.

She stopped and looked at the person she was waiting for.

“Yo, did you wait long?”

“No, I just arrived.”

Raising her hand to quickly greet her fellow Goddess, Freya gave off a shallow laugh beneath her hood.

It was different than the bright red hair of Hephaestus, her hair was a light scarlet color. She put the sunset color hair that she was reminded of behind her head, wearing an old shirt and shorts, giving an impression of a sloppy man.

Loki endured her yawn while her eyes was filled with tears of laughter.

“Hey, I still haven’t eaten breakfast, can I eat it here?”

“Please help yourself.”

Loki held onto the chair while speaking bluntly, Freya revealed a slight smile, her expression shows that she did not mind. The atmosphere between the two seemed like they were old friends that knew the ins and outs of each other.

“After the banquet, you slept sufficiently right. Who told you to drink alone by yourself and even get yourself drunk and pass out. Hoho, Hestia really is something ah?”

“Hey, smelly big boobs, where did you hear this kind of news.”

“Your lovely members seemed to have cause a big racket? No matter who talked about this, your members are fully concerned about you.”

“Damn, those mischievous brats, they really did it.”

Loki was the one who called out Freya, she was also the one that

decided on the location.

Currently, the <God's Banquet> had passed for a few days, the reason for meeting here was also for this.

"Anyways, when are you going to introduce that child to me?"

"What, I still have to introduce."

"It is still my first meeting with her."

The ones who came beside Freya was not just Loki, there was still one more person.

This beautiful blonde girl with golden eyes had a sheathed sword, standing in a position as if she was protecting Loki, even Freya who was called a Goddess of Beauty still narrowed her eyes and smiled.

"Nn, this is my familia's Aizu. Is this enough? Aizu, this fellow is also a goddess, go greet her."

"……Nice to meet you"

Sword princess, Freya muttered this name and stared at the female in front of her.

Aizu Wallenstein. Even amongst the gods, it had become a topic about <Loki's Familia>, she was a highly anticipated swordswomen. Her name and valor was spread beyond Orario and even to the world, thus, there was actually no need to introduce her.

Her lovely appearance did not match with the dangerous profession of an Adventurer, the people that do not know anything and stand in front of her would have never imagined that she had stepped through numerous Monster corpses.

The female's face was exceptionally slim, Loki urged her <It's okay to sit down>, she listened and sat down beside Loki.

"How cute, and……ah, I understand the reason why Loki fancies this child."

The golden eyes and Freya's silver eyes exchanged a gaze, Aizu's cold

expression did not change and immediately bowed politely.

She seemed to not resemble a female, Freya could not help but revealed a smile.

“Can I ask why you brought the ＜Sword Princess＞ here?”

“Eh he he he……! Hey you, since it was rare to have a festival, then I can have a perfect and lovely date with Aizu-chan until I am satisfied!”

Loki loudly exclaimed while revealed a wretched smile.

“……Oh, and I thought that after this princess’s ＜Expedition＞ was over, she would finally return and calm down, but she immediately wanted to dive back down into the dungeon.”

“……”

“If you do not take a short break, then you would not rest for the rest of your life”, Loki said while she stretched out her hand to the side and gently touched the girl’s head. Aizu seemed to admit her mistake and looked down, allowing Loki to do whatever she wants.

Freya saw that within Loki’s thin and scarlet eyes, there were warm colors inside.

Knowing how destructive Loki was up in heaven, Freya thought, she really have changed.

“Then isn’t it about the time you explain why you’ve called me out?”

“Yes, there has been a long time since we just gossiped.”

“Your mouth is filled with nonsense.”

Under the shadow of the hood, Freya revealed a shallow smile, Loki also suddenly changed her joking attitude and revealed a courageous smile. The atmosphere between the two suddenly changed.

The shop personnel, who was bringing the menu over, really had bad luck, the pressure created by the two Goddess——The silent and tremendous pressure caused him to have a facial spasm, as if he was tied down to the place, Aizu’s

expression did not change and in order to not hinder the two, she observed the situation directly.

“Let me listen, what on earth are you planning.”

“What are you talking about, Loki?”

“Don’t act a fool, you idiot.”

Freya’s gently smiled at the unmovable male shop personnel, he widened his eyes and stared, it seems that he had gotten slightly red on his face as if he had gotten a little fever, then suddenly turned around and fled.

When there were no one in the surroundings, she turned her head back. Loki’s thin eyes revealed a vicious and sharp gaze.

“Your recent actions are quite big, appearing at a <Banquet> that you hold no interest to, from the tone of your recent conversation, you seemed to be collecting information……What are you planning?”

“Noisy.”

<If you do not do anything strange actions, then nothing would have happened> —— Loki’s words seemed to reveal this. If it will affect my side, then I will hit you, the scarlet eyes seemed to confirm her intentions.

They continued to fight against each other’s gaze. Freya’s slight smile seemed to directly face against Loki’s gaze that was filled with murderous intent. There seemed to be a dangerous divinity exuded from the two of them that could not be seen. Noticing this, who knows when the shop only had them left. Aizu was concerned about the two and felt that this wordless dialogue will continue forever.

Slowly, Loki released her strength.

She made the atmosphere that was there vanish, and said convincingly.

“Because of a man?”

“……”

The goddess did not reply, but only gave off a smile underneath her hood.

However, Loki seemed to treat the slight smile as if she confirmed it.

Loki uttered a sighing sound that would make others feel amazed.

“Ha……That means that you took a fancy to a certain ＜Familia＞’s child, is it because of this?”

The passionate Freya……This also means that she had loved males, it was already a well-known fact among the gods.

If she found a favorite within the opposite sex——Even if it was a child from the Lower World——She will immediately approach them and use her incomparable ＜Beauty＞ to make the other to become her own thing. There were many that had been captured by her magic-like beauty and became a prisoner to her.

This time Freya seemed to have taken a fancy from another ＜Familia＞’s core member.

Participating in the ＜God’s Banquet＞ was also to identify the ＜Familia＞ of that child.

Of course, if she was to take action against a child that had made a pact with another god——Which means she wanted to snatch him away——It will

definitely lead to a large dispute. If the fighting force of the ＜Familia＞ was huge, then Freya would suffer large damages and cry while she headed back, so she would avoid such careless behavior and first gather information. This was Loki’s prediction.

Freya did not deny the words of Loki.

“Really now, you perverted goddess, you still have that much motivation all year round, you don’t care who it is and still want to do it?”

“Oh ho I’m really sorry, but I still have the ability to distinguish.”

“Nonsense, you obviously still trick those male gods.”

“Having connections with them brings a variety of convenience, you can get a lot of accommodations.”

Uh, Loki's voice rang out loudly, she did not care and said you really have bad taste, Freya replied by saying, only just a little and shrugged her delicate shoulders.

There was already no need to question her matter anymore, Loki issued a loud sound and pressed her entire weight onto the back of the chair.

Her two hands held onto the back of her head and she gently leaned backwards.

Freya also picked up a cold cup and drank some water, the quiet space also became more relaxed.

The atmosphere between the two had already changed to a bright and sunny atmosphere, the sound of the bustling noise from the street entered their ears.

A gentle wind blew in from the opened windows and gently raised Freya's gown.

"And then?"

"……?"

"What's that person like, the child that you took a fancy to? When did you find him?"

Tell me, Loki increased her tone.

She requested it, tell me this tiny thing, she seemed to have gone into full throttle in goading this out.

If you do not tell me, I will not let you leave, her excited eyes conveyed this.

"……"

"Because of you, I spent so much effort, so I have at least the right to listen to it."

Listening to Loki pulling up such a far-fetched reason, Freya's left hand supported her cheeks while she looked outside of the window.

On the main street, people were walking back and forth, it was an extremely bustling scene. Freya seemed to be chasing the scene in her memory, under the hood, her silver eyes gazed at a distant location.

179

"……He isn't very strong. Compared to your or my Familia, that child is still completely unreliable. He would be hurt because of very small matters, would easily cry……that child is that kind of person."

However, Freya's tiny lips continued to speak.

"He is very charming and pure. In that child, I have seen a brilliance that I have never seen before."

Although it was not noticeable, but her voice did indeed go up a pitch slightly, and from it, you could feel the slightest enthusiasm.

"Noticing him was really accidental. He suddenly appeared in my eyesight."

Freya recalled the memories of the encounter while continuing to organize her speech. As if she was trying hard to reproduce the encounter with him and looked at the scenery outside the window.

"At that time, it was also similar to the current scene……"

The daylight that came from the morning leaked out to the west side of the Main Street.

From the opposite side of the road, a boy was heading towards this direction.

Yes, just like right now, it was the same as the one running around within her visions.

"_____"

Freya's entire body froze.

In her pair of silver eyes, it was closely pegged to an <Silver-haired boy> wearing standard adventurer gear.

He moved across the crowd, sometimes he would slow down, sometimes he would stop for a moment, then he rush forward.

He was heading in the direction of the coliseum, his goal is the Monster Festival probably. As if he was surging through the crowd in general, the boy headed towards the round and massive facility.

180

Freya, who was looking at the silhouette that was about to disappear, slowly, her face revealed a charming smile.

“Excuse me, I suddenly remembered something.”

“Huh?”

“I’ll see you next time.”

Freya stood up and left, leaving a stunned Loki remaining at the same place.

She used her clock and wrapped around her body and left the shop.

Inside the shop, only Loki and Aizu was left.

“What the, that fellow suddenly just went away.”

Loki, who had a surprised expression, stared at the stairs which Freya used to leave.

Loki thought for a while then she made an “Eh?” sound, and was filled with doubts.

Beside her, from a short distant to the window side, Aizu also stared at the outside street.

“Aizu, what’s up? Is there something wrong?”

“……No”

Just when she prepared to say nothing happened, Aizu continued to stare outside the window.

Her pair of golden eyes, there was no doubt that it was the same as the silver eyes of the goddess, chasing after the familiar silver hair.

× × ×

“Come, this is for you.”

“Ohhhhhh……!?”

Once she received a tiny box from Hephaestus, who was wearing her work clothes, Hestia could not help but exclaimed. She could tell that in order to make the gorgeous box, Hepheastus’s eyes were still shining with brilliance.

“This should be enough to meet your expectations right?”

“Yes, completely enough! There is absolutely not even the slightest objections!”

With a Wow sound, while she opened the box, Hestia looked inside the box.

Inside, it housed a pure black sheath, even the dagger handle was even pure black.

The entire weapon from top to bottom was pitched-black, although the appearance looks simple, but it was completed by a power far exceeding Hestia’s, and it was the masterpiece of Hephaestus.

It looks like it was made exclusive to Bell, using nearly almost an entire day’s worth of time to create this weapon. Hestia’s face emerged an never seen before satisfied expression.

“Ah, right. The weapon should be named by Hephaestus right!? If it is possible, let me name it! Right right, because this is the crystallization of Bell and my love, let’s call it ＜Dagger of Love＞ How is that!?”

“No, it makes it feel like a cheap product……But, also, this is indeed a weapon just for you, the ＜Goddess＞……”

＜Goddess – Hestia’s Dagger＞ How is that? Hephaestus made this suggestion.

Nono, this is too embarrassing. Hestia who was elated suddenly covered her face.

Her twintails on the side of her head, seemed to express the owner’s mood, and was happily and shyly shaking.

“First of all, the money is only lent to you, you will not be allowed to

go back on a debt~”

“I know~ I know!”

182

Hephaestus let her hair down and put on a hairpin while she said this. Hestia, who jumping in joy, also replied with a smile on her face.

When her friend had finished packing, she prepared to leave this place in haste.

“Are you ready to leave now?”

“Yes, Sorry for the inconvenience!”

As if she was sitting on a needle and was restless, Hestia’s actions were extremely swift, she walked towards the door of the room.

“Hestia, you should also take a little break~~!”

Hearing the call behind her, but Hestia did not turn around and reply. She only gently waved her hand.

Coming out from the tiny room located next to the workshop, Hestia moved at the same speed and quickly exited Hephaestus’s shop.

(Ah~! I really want to quickly show this to Bell-kun~)

What kind of expression will that child make, just thinking about this, Hestia felt extremely happy.

Will he be pleased because he received something? Or would he use respectful eyes to look at me? Or perhaps would he be crying tears of emotions?

Hestia imagined various good scenes of their encounter, her happiness on her face completely did not move on. She tried to move forward on the road while she smiled, her entire face was as brilliant as if flowers have just bloomed.

Then after Hestia had calmed down for a while, she headed towards the North West Main Street, thinking that whether if she should go home to wait for Bell.

Although it was extremely tempting, and she would like to present to him this present as soon as possible, but in reality, she had no idea where he is right now.

If it was around this time, she was afraid that he would be hovering around the dungeon……

“Eh? ……Ahhh, so that was it.”

183

Hestia, who was contemplating, noticed a leaflet posted on a certain shop, the corner of her mouth rose up and revealed a subtle smile that others would not be able to see, her face was filled with pride.

On the leaflet, it recorded the agenda and the program schedule for the Monster Festival held today.

(Today is the annual Philia Festival……If that idiotic youngster who just came to the city knew about the festival, then he must be extremely interested in it and headed to watch it……)

If that’s the case, if she also head there, perhaps they will be able to meet up.

Expecting the Festival venue to be extremely chaotic, if they want to successfully meet up, then generally they would need a lot of luck. But this concern was completely unable to stop Hestia who was jumping with joy.

I have already foreseen the actions of Bell-kun! Hestia showed off her baseless confidence and decided to head over to the festival venue.

Her goal is the East Main Street.

“Hey～ Taxi!”

That petite body and cute little hands tried hard to stretched towards the outside, attempting to call the carriage that was headed in that direction.

Then, a youth who looked extremely young drove a carriage and stopped in front of Hestia. She jumped on while saying “Could you please head to the East Main Street!”, and told the driver her destination.

“Yes yes, understood. You also want to head over to the Monster Festival right, Goddess-sama?”

“Ah ah, something like that.”

Following the sound of a whip snapping, the carriage immediately moved. The wheels constantly turned on the stone road and emitted knocking sounds and an intense bumps, it had completely surrounded Hestia who was seated inside.

The Labyrinth city was extremely huge. Although it only housed adventurers and Familia members all over the world, but its total area is also one of the largest

compared to the other cities. In this huge city, as a mean of transport, such as carriages was also very natural. And now, businesses of transporting people or cargo had also gradually been accepted.

By the way, the term ＜Taxi＞ that was used to stop the carriage was decided on a whim by a god, they do not know when it started, but it had spread, so it finally became an establish term.

“I want to hurry over there. Although it is very crowded, but could you please be a little bit faster?”

“Ah, I can not find a reason to reject the request of a Goddess-sama, please hold on tight.”

The youth readily agreed to accept Hestia’s request, and then skillfully increased the speed while driving the carriage.

He avoided the crowds in the street and went through numerous small streets. In order to head over to the East Main Street, he even used streets that the carriage would just barely brush through. While she talked happily with the youth who only had a maximum difference of 5 years compared to Bell, Hestia happily looked at the vibrant streets due to the festival.

“Ah. Sorry Goddess-sama, from here on, it is impossible to continue forward.

“If that’s the case.”

The swift carriage had stopped. East Main Street was just around the

corner and the density of the crowd had also increased by a lot, it really did not have any gaps for the carriage to pass through.

Hestia, who was sitting behind the youth that bowed his head, immediately though that if it was here, then there should be no problems and then prepared to leave the carriage.

“Okay, driver-kun, it is completely enough. I can walk from her now.”

“I am really really sorry about this. Although it is dim, but if I had taken the alley on the road, it would be easier to reach the Main Street.”

“Thank you. Well, how much is the fare?”

“A total of 90 Varisu.”

Hestia took out her bag and turned it upside down, and placed all the money inside to the youth who provided the service.

“Fufu. There is no need to hand over the change. The rest is tips given to you!”

“No, um, there is only just enough money……”

Before hearing the words of the youth, Hestia had already completely ran off into an alley. Although she felt a pitiful stare coming from behind, but she completely ignored it and left the place.

The alley was slightly dim. However, there were not many people compared to the outside street, just like the youth had said, it would be a smooth walk. Hestia held onto the box with the dagger while she continued to walk down the alley.

Shortly after, another figure appeared in the alley.

“That, Could it be, Freya?”

“……Hestia?”

At the crossroad, at the path of the other direction of Hestia’s was a female wrapped around by a purple cloak. From the hood, you can see her beautiful silver hair appearing. Hestia thought that she recognized

that hair, thought for a moment, then Hestia matched it to the owner of the hair.

“Are you also heading to the Monster Festival? Walking this kind of path, looks like you are also in a hurry right?”

“……Uh, Yes. Because I cannot walk properly on the Main Street where all the pedestrians are, so this is the only way I can avoid their eyes while walking forward.”

“Ah～ So being a ＜Goddess of Beauty＞ is also hard work.”

To her, this goddess who was called the incarnate of beauty, even if she dressed up, if she walked down the Main Street, she would certainly cause chaos to the surroundings. She would also not be able to call a carriage ride, so she could only use this kind of sneaky and low-exposure method to reach her destination.

186

Hestia hmm in her mouth and nodded towards Freya, who was slightly smiling under her cloak.

“Ah, that’s right. Freya, did you see my Familia’s child? I am currently looking for him.”

“……”

“It is a white hair, red-eyed human……Right right, just like a rabbit!”

Hestia danced while happily explaining things about Bell. In contrast, Freya’s smile disappeared from her face and quiet down.

However, the smile immediately emerged once again on her face and she pointed down the road she had just came from.

“After saying this, I think I seem to have seen him in front of the East Main Street.”

“Really! ?”

“Yes yes, seems like he was directly heading to the Coliseum. Walk down this path and then turn left, then you should be able to be in front of him～”

Hestia's face immediately changed and she happily said "Thank you!" and completely accepted her suggestion.

Hestia smiled and prepared to say goodbye to Freya, then she also embarked on the new path.

Shortly after walking down the path that she was pointed to, the warm sun rays shone down in front of the path.

It was still early. Hestia immediately ran to the end of the alley and reached the East Main Street.

What awaits here was a dense crowd without any gaps.

In the midst of the crowd, there was the figure of Bell who was trying hard to surge forward.

"Hey~! Bell-kun~~!"

187

× × ×

"Eh?"

Hearing someone call my name, I turned around and looked. For a while, I could not help but widen my own eyes.

It was the missing Kami-sama, trying hard to push through the crowd and walking quickly towards here.

"Kami-sama!? Why are you here!?"

"Hey hey, don't say these stupid words. Because I want to meet you, isn't it obvious!"

Kami-sama, who walked up in front of me and stopped, suddenly seemed to be proudly straighten her massive boobs and replied my question.

Facing this answer that could not be considered as an answer, I could not help but have cold sweat.

"No, although you wanted to see me. It isn't the matter……Then, what happened today……"

“No, even this is great! Just now I was thinking of meeting you, who could imagine that I really encountered you as a result! Looks like there isn’t a simple fate between the two of us, Fufufu～”

……Looks like my words completely did not enter her.

In front of Kami-sama, who was completely immersed in her own world, I completely did not know where I was thrown to.

“K…Kami-sama? Although I think it is rather rude, but can I ask you what exactly have you been doing?”

“Hehe……You want to know? The reason why I am so happy.”

188

“Yes.”

Just when I said this, Kami-sama seemed to have stopped all conversation.

She looked around the crowded and bustling streets due to the festival, then she said just wait a minute and stared up into the sky, as if she was considering something.

“……Yes, we are rarely together. As expected, I cannot tell you right now.”

“Ehhhhh!?”

“I want to leave the fun and happy things at the very end.”

I completely did not imagine this situation, and during the moment where my face had froze, Kami-sama grabbed onto my hand and pulled me while heading forward.

Because I suddenly had a feeling of being gripped on my right hand, I was stunned and my heartbeat also slowed down.

“Let’s have a date, Bell-kun.”

Afterwards, Kami-sama turned around, smiled and said this to me.

“……DDDD…DATE!?”

“Ah, yes. This street is also very festive, there is no reason for us not to have fun right?”

“No, but, date……”

“Fufu, Then let’s go, Bell-kun!”

Seeing me, who had become completely flushed, Kami-sama seemed to become even happier and had a pleased smile. Her tiny and soft fingers firmly grasped onto my hand, leading me through the bustling crowd.

The shops on both side of the road were very active. Various sales of goods that was most striking was the snacks which you eat while you walk, and of course toys and jewelry related to the Monster Festival. There is also shops that sell real weapons, as expected of the Labyrinth City.

189

In the distant skies, fireworks were lit up, although it was in a grand scale, but due to the distance, the sound was muffled and it blossomed under the clear sky, it was a wonderful feeling.

“P…Please wait a minute Kami-sama!? Actually, I have a small task that I have to complete!”

“Eh? Is something the matter?”

“Yes, so I am currently looking for someone……!”

“Okay, then we can have a date while we look for someone! Having fun while we complete the task, isn’t it killing two birds with one stone. Ah, old man, please give me two jam pancakes.”

“Kami-sama!?”

It was so simple to turn over my reason, I felt extremely troubled.

If that’s the case, I don’t have any face to see the shop personnel who requested me to deliver the purse to Seal. If the fact that I disregarded the task because of a date was known, it will lead to resentment.

(There is also……)

No matter what, I have to let Kami-sama be aware of this matter.

The two hands were constantly holding together, making me feel very nervous.

Also, I noticed that I was attracted to the cute expressions of Kami-sama that I have never seen before.

Although the age difference was rather strange, but Kami-sama's behaviors and actions matched her own body's appearance. Naively looking at the goods inside the shop, her eyes twinkling, it was completely different than the Kami-sama who usually came to meet me. Although she was only giving off a slight smile, but how should I say it, that, uh……It was extremely cute.

Kami-sama really is a beautiful girl. Seeing the completely different performance, this renewed my thoughts.

Looking at her chest rhythmically bounce around, I was really, extremely troubled.

190

Especially because the other was a Goddess who others fear……

"Bell-kun, Bell-kun."

"Yes. What is it?"

"Ahhh～"

"……EHHH??"

My mind was currently plagued with a variety of things that troubled me, and it was about to be attacked by concentrated firepower.

With a smile on her face, Kami-sama brought the newly bought jam pancakes in front of me.

The hands that was gripped together was loosened, and the two hands were holding the snacks. That tiny and cute body tried hard to extend upward, as if she wanted to bring the jam pancake over to my mouth.

I can not help but cry out, I used all my strength to widened my eyes.

“Kami-sama, what on earth is this!?”

“What’s the matter, it’s just Ahhh～. Ahhhh～. Because I also wanted to try out this thing.”

“……!?”

A tremble that I could not resist completely dominated my entire body.

The words that I originally wanted to say to Kami-sama completely disappeared, I completely could not speak. My mouth opened and closed, and my entire face turned red.

Although I knew that this kind of feeling was rather good. But was it because of the atmosphere of the festival that caused it? Or was it because Kami-sama was too happy……!?”

“Eh? What is it, Bell-kun? Because I ate it, so you can’t eat it?”

“N…Nooo!? It is completely not the case, that……”

191

I was slightly shy……No, that’s not the case. Rude, too rude!

The other is a Goddess!? If she was to let me eat it like that, then I would have offended her……!?

While I felt sorry for the unreasonable action, my eyes continued to roll around, and I was so embarrassed that I wanted to find a hole and hide. Then, I was aware of the existence of my own share of jam pancake.

“K…Kami-sama, it is difficult to accept that piece!? Why don’t I just eat my own share!?”

“……Let you escaped.”

Looking at the jam pancake that belongs to me, Kami-sama’s face seemed to show dissatisfaction.

Then, she immediately said “Fine”, and her smile re-emerged.

“Then, you’re welcome. You will feed me right?”

“Eh”

“This, Ahhhh～”

“……A…Ahhhh～～”

Kami-sama, who closed her eyes, opened her tiny mouth.

I, who had become frozen in that instant, seemed to have been hypnotized and slowly moved my jam pancake over……

In the next instant, a bite.

That tiny pair of lips, as if it was giving off a gentle kiss continued to eat the snack.

Looking at that innocent child-like action, I, who acted like an idiot, blushed without hesitation.

Kami-sama, who opened her eyes, just seemed to show off a mischievous smile, and finally, she took a large bite out of the pancake. As if she was tasting how delicious it is, and her soft cheeks continued to chew at a rhythmically speed.

192

What kind of expression do I currently have……

(Ah……)

On her cheeks, there was a white colored jam.

Seeing the sauce from the snack overflow onto Kami-sama’s face, I reflexively raised my hand.

Wanting to use my finger to wipe off the white sauce, and the moment where I was about to touch her, I stopped.

Because I thought that wouldn't this carefree action be too rude to Kami-sama.

However, I currently did not have the handkerchief that I used to wipe my face with me.

I awkwardly withdrew my hand……But those tiny pair of hands seized my hands once again.

"Fufu~ Help me take it off."

"……"

Kami-sama's attitude was extremely calm, and she let out a slight smile. Her cheeks were slightly red, but you can see it was filled with love.

I, who was completely attracted to the slight smile of Kami-sama, awkwardly stretched out my hand and gently rubbed it on Kami-sama's cheeks.

Kami-sama's cheeks which was also dyed red seemed to be tickled and she closed her eyes.

(U…Uwaaahh)

It felt like steam was about to come out from my head.

My entire body was numbed. It was extremely embarrassing. No, it should be that I felt extremely shy.

I seemed to have been completely tossed around by Kami-sama.

"Okay, Bell-kun, let's continue. This time we are eating potato croquettes!"

"We are still doing this!?"

"That's of course. There isn't many opportunities that we can both enjoy together at the outside."

Then, I was holding hands again with Kami-sama and being dragged forward.

Although from a variety of angles, I had already completely accepted this fate.

However, when I recovered, I noticed that my mouth naturally formed a smile.

Thinking carefully, perhaps it was really what Kami-sama had said.

In order to support this Familia of two people, I had constantly wandered around the dungeons, Kami-sama also had to go to work.

Calculating from this, the two of us doing something together had not happened so far.

Trying hard to squeeze through the gaps of the crowd, together with Kami-sama we moved forward along the Main Street.

Although I kept a wry smile, but to me, I was still looking forward to be tossed around by a happy Kami-sama.

× × ×

Following the overwhelming cheering sounds, this side had also began.

As the dust was raised, a monster that was freed from its chains roared as it rushed forward. In front of the huge pig-class monster that was two meter tall, the <Battle Boar>, was a single female that was fully alert. Her short hair that followed her swayed in the wind, she narrowly avoided the monster's attack.

The cheering sounds from outside the scene overlapped and increasingly became louder. The enthusiastic spiral of cheering sounds was surrounded by the accommodated 50 000 audience.

This was the circular coliseum that existed in the East Main Street.

Under the countless passionate attention, the main event of the day, the Monster Festival kicked off.

In the center of the field was a monster that was captured just for today, and it had completely released its violent nature. It headed towards the prey in its eyes and

used all its efforts to move and kick using its four limbs. Facing this kind of boar-like rush that could easily crush through stone, <Ganesha's Familia>'s tamer easily dodged it and enjoyed the cheers issued from the surrounding.

If you were to look at it, it was similar to bullfighting. A person wearing gorgeous clothes, holding a cape and a whip, facing against the rampaging monster numerous times, and passing through.

In this Monster Festival, she was given the task of not defeating the monster, but to tame it. Causing the monster that could easily kill her to become tame, and making it become completely obedient, this will make the citizens feel awe, respect and excitement. All sort of unforeseen circumstances would make their palms sweat.

The monster loud roar, the host using a loud speaker that was created through Magic Stone to act as a commentary and the sounds of the audience's cheers. The venue had completely entered a passionate state.

"It has begun……"

Feeling the grand occasion in the coliseum, Eina said softly.

She, who was in stand-by at the coliseum, could hear the awe voices from the inside, and her skin could even feel the vibrations. Thus, she turned around and looked at the building behind her.

Currently, Eina and the other guild employees were mobilized to the coliseum.

Their main responsibilities are for the admission and guidance of the audience.

This was also mainly to assist the <Ganesha's Familia>'s work.

Monster Festival is not a event that the Gods could hold on a whim. But because the <Ganesha's Familia> had promised to organized it , so that it can proceed smoothly. The planning was led by the guild.

(Although I should not consider such things……But why do we have to organize such a festival)

The opening of Monster Festival was decided by the higher ups of the

guild. Eina, who was at the bottom of the organization, should not complain about this, but her heart still does not feel at ease.

197

Although it does not pose a threat to the city, but the action of transporting the dungeon monster above the ground should not have happened. Eina herself seemed to reject it. If it was for the management of the Labyrinth City, and for the better peace of the city, then no matter how important it is, they should not throw in these unsafe seedlings into the basket.

Monsters, they are terrifying creatures.

Could it be that they want to use the Philia Festival to emphasized that they could be friendly with monsters. Just for the sake of entertainment and was willing to take on a risky action——If that's the case, then to the guild—— Eina thought to herself.

"Also……Is this a circus or is it a performance, it's so loud that it hurts my ears."

"Eh? Eina, what are you talking about?"

Facing her colleague, who heard her mutter to herself, Eina gave off a wry smile and shook her head, expressing that nothing had happened.

This city, Orario, had incorporated a large amount of Familias and also a vast majority of adventurers. Although the name of adventurers sounds good, but in reality, most of them are just brutal and lawless people. Because of their poor etiquette, it was easy for them to have conflicts with the general public, and causing problems regarding the order of the place.

To the guild, who aimed to produce a good efficiency of recycling the dungeon's Magic Stones, these adventurers that explore the dungeon is an essential exist to their operations. So objectively speaking, the city's management can only turn a blind eye to the Monster Festival, even if they were criticized by the public.

Because of this, there were slanders within Babel a few days ago, Eina herself could only listen to it.

(No matter what, please do not have anything happen, that is

enough……) During the period when the Monster Festival is held, it was always easy for her to be in cold sweat. Until the end of the Monster Festival, she would always feel paranoid. Perhaps, it was because she was too conservative?

198

I also want to see! The colleagues beside her murmured, Eina used her hand to lift her forehead and sighed, feeling a sense of annoyance.

“There isn’t any……”

“As expected, she had already entered the coliseum?”

(……Eh?)

From Eina’s gaze, a familiar person entered. That was Bell.

For the outer location of the coliseum, Bell seemed to be looking around for someone. Beside him, it should be the Goddess of his Familia.

Eina glanced at her colleagues standing behind her, and felt that it should be okay if she left for a while. Then she headed to the young male adventurer that she was responsible for.

“Bell-kun”

“Eh, Eina-san?”

“Who is this, Bell-kun. This half-elf?

Bell, who was slightly surprised, could not help but give off a wry smile. Eina still first introduced herself to the Hestia who was beside him.

“I belong to the guild management section and is responsible for Bell Cranel’s dungeon exploration adviser, Eina Tulle. It is the first time meeting you, and please to meet you. Goddess Hestia-sama.

“Ahah, so that’s it. Thank you for taking care of Bell-kun.”

Once her introduction was over, Hestia seemed to understand everything and waved her hands. Eina respectfully bowed her head again, Bell, who looked at the situation between the two, asked Eina a

question.

“Why is Eina-sana here?”

“The guild is also responsible for the Philia Festival, that is to help assist the management for the venue. And I am responsible for guiding the guests. Bell-kun also came see the festival right?”

199

“No, I am only looking for a person……About that, a person that is wearing a female maid outfit……Or not. Right, Eina-san, did you see a female human that was having troubles with money?”

“Uh, I am not clear about that.”

Listening to this strange description, Eina did not conceal her wry smile. Bell also replied with “Is that so”, then scratched his head.

Entering the coliseum required a certain fee, so the possibility of the person, that had not brought money, that Bell was looking was unlikely to be inside. After Eina told this analysis to Bell, he nodded and expressed that he understood.

“Then, I’ll look around again. Perhaps, we just missed each other.”

“Yes, if I see that individual, I will call her to wait here, so if you could not find her, please come here again later.”

I am really grateful. Bell bowed down and prepared to leave. However, Hestia, who came together with him, continued to stare at Eina, standing there and completely did not move.

Eina slightly tilted her head, then she slowly began to talk.

“It is the adviser, right～”

“Yes, is there any problems?”

“Using your position to ogle on Bell-kun……You have never done these things before right?”

At the very beginning, Eina completely did not understand what she was talking about and had a stunned expression.

Looking at Hestia, who had a serious expression while inquiring this, she calmly let out some words from her mouth.

“I have always separated my private and official matters……”

“Yes, I’ll believe in your words.”

Hestia seriously nodded, her two hands gently made a tapping sound.

200

Then she pulled Bell, who was surprised, and left the location.

Was she being warning me? Eina looked at the two figures and could not help but sweat.

Suddenly she felt a slight headache and went over to her colleagues.

“Really now, what are they doing, those guys.”

“If it’s complaints, then say them later, let’s first move those people.”

“……?”

The staff were quite noisy.

It felt that the atmosphere had completely changed, Eina was completely surprised.

“Excuse me, may I ask what has happened?’

“Ah. The staff that was situated at the West Entrance seemed to have collapsed.”

“Eh……?”

“Those people still seemed to be conscious. However, it was like that their bones were extracted from them and they slumped down onto the ground, their entire body was out of strength……Ah, we estimated that they drank too much wine yesterday and completely did not care about today’s work. Seems like that they cannot continue to guard, so we are sending some people over from this side.

The beastman male staff placed his hand on the back of his head while saying this.

Hearing this, Eina felt a strange feeling within her heart. It was an unpleasant tension that made her shiver.

(It is because I'm too nervous……It should be so right?)

The audience's loud cheers and screams mingled together around her ears, Eina lifted her head and stared at the large coliseum in front of her.

It seems like the roaring sounds of the monster that came above the ground constantly bit hard on Eina's eardrums.

201

× × ×

This was a location that was dark, damp and with a faint light source.

Hanging from the ceiling was a Magic Stone Lamp, casting a faint glow into room and revealing the shadows of bits and pieces. 1 Meter cubed wooden boxes were lying scattered on the floor, the surroundings was also filled with clutters. On the wall, there were a variety of items, with the vast majority being weapons.

In this dim space that looked like a warehouse, there were many <Monster Stables>. Many monsters were locked there with locks. The sound of the metal being scratched at was frequently sounded in the room. Including a huge dog-type monster that used its own nose to push through the gaps, using its teeth to scratch, and issuing a humming sound.

This was set up to be a large room underground. It was within the coliseum's arena, and could be called the control room for the monsters.

The monsters were transported by the person responsible to the central arena. Once they were about the reach the ground, then they will unlock the shackles of the monsters, leaving it to the tamer in the central arena to tame it.

The earthquake-like cheers from the audience seemed to have come extremely far away, and echoing within this space.

"What are you doing? The next show is about to begin! Why is the

monster not up yet?”

Following the sound of the footsteps, the large door was slowly opened. A female from the <Ganesha’s Familia> excitedly walked into the room.

She was in charge of the preparations and monitoring behind the scenes for the Festival. As the show time was approaching, but the monster still had not been shipped out, she felt anxious and rushed down to see the situation.

Her angry questioning did not receive any response.

“Eh……Hey, Hey. What happened!?”

In the room in front of her eyes were her companions lying down in a limp posture.

202

The four porters that were responsible for this area were all frozen in a limp posture.

She rain in panic to the nearest one to observe the situation. Ah, they were still breathing. There were no external injuries either, she lifted up her head to observe the others, and they were all in the same situation. Everybody’s lives were not in danger.

“Ah……Ah”

(Is it the monster’s poison, No. This is……!?)

Slightly irregular breathing. Slightly flushed cheeks. Their eyes completely did not have any focus.

It was a symptom that she had never seen before. Watching the expression of her companion that was lying on the ground, she felt a slight chill coming from behind.

About this abnormal situation they were caught up to, she did not have any clue.

What on earth had happened here? She stood at the same place and was fully examining the room filled with monster roars.

“_____“

Accidentally, she felt the air behind her began to shake.

This was not the feeling of a vibration of a sneak attack, but it seemed to be a vibration of someone calmly and slowly walking around. Because there was completely no malicious intent, so the reaction speed also became extremely slow.

A certain person was currently standing right behind her.

“Don’t move, oh?”

“_____Ah.”

In the next instant, her eyes were covered from behind.

A pair of smooth and slender hands covered her eyes.

Afterwards, an impact that felt like a spasm instantly went through her entire body.

203

The fragrance that eroded through her noise, and the intimate contact with the soft flesh, conveyed through her body temperature, causing her senses to be completely paralyzed. This unfathomable <Beauty> completely surrounded her.

This was an unbelievable degree of <Charm>

Just from the sight of it, it was able to initiate the <Charm> It was absolutely impossible. It was impossible to resist. Her consciousness also short-circuited.

She was deprived of her own will.

“Where are the keys?”

“——Eh?”

“The keys to the monster stables, where are they?”

The sound that gently blew into her ears, her neck even felt a tiny shiver.

Faced with these words, that seemed to directly pierced through to her mind, which was repeated twice, her own body seemed to fully obey as if it was a conditioned reflex.

Her trembling left hand slowly dropped down, and took out the key chain from her waist. Following the sound of the keys shaking, she brought the keys to shoulder height.

“Thank you.”

The keys were taken away, the arm that covered her eyes disappeared. However, her eyes had already completely lost its ability to function, she, who had loss her own will, could not see anything.

She felt that she person behind her leave, and her hands and legs felt weak. She fell down onto the floor and sat down on her butt.

As if the scene was reproduced once more, she had the same outcome of her fellow companions.

“I’m sorry.”

204

Freya left the female who had completely collapsed.

Monitoring the West Entrance, the guild employees and the adventurers from the <Ganesha Familia> . Freya had neutralized members of both organization and directly invaded to this location.

Freya did not have any combat abilities. In the Lower World, she was a completely powerless mortal.

However, she still had her share of extraordinary <Beauty>, no, it should be that she, herself was <Beauty>.

That is a type of power that could not be resisted using the logic. Humans and demi-humans, and even Gods would be dominated by this overwhelming power.

As long as she wants it to happen, there is no person that could resist into being dragged into an endless abyss of ecstasy.

This time, she used the beauty in a negative way.

No matter male or female, as long as their consciousness was uncontrollable, then they would be deprived of their strength. This was the effect of the <Charm> that Freya had attempted to use.

As long as they were taken up by surprise, she was a person who was able to do such a degree of things.

"……"

Freya stopped at the center of the room.

The surrounding was filled with large and small Monster stables. The Monsters that were captured were extremely excited and violent. Their roaring sounds surrounded Freya from all directions.

However, the moment she took off her cloak, all the roaring sounds stopped.

"……"

The peerless beauty was exposed to the outside.

205

The snow-like white and soft skin impacted the Monster's visually, filled with the fragrance it had completely constrained their actions. The Monster's eyes seemed to be controlled by the shiny silver hair and the silver eyes.

Even if it was these ferocious Monsters, they still could not get rid of her influence of beauty.

"……I'll pick you."

Those pair of silver eyes looked at the Monsters carefully, as if they were carefully selecting one. Finally, it stopped at a location.

The Monster was completely covered with pure white hair. On its burly body were two shoulders and two wrist with muscles bulging from it and was particularly prominent. It's silver hair was just like Freya, extending to the back like a tail.

The Ape-like monster <Silverback>'s eyes were rolling, its breathing was also becoming shorter. It felt the eyes of the Goddess.

“Come out now”

Freya used the keys in her hand to release the locks of the Monster stable.

The Silverback obeyed the orders of the goddess and opened the iron fence and came out step by step. The lock that was opened shook with a rattling sound.

Letting the Monster out, no matter what, it was an extremely dangerous behavior.

This free-spirited goddess’s action would easily cause a lot of to others.

There was only one goal.

(That child also came here……)

The matter that Freya had thought about, was the matter about the young boy Bell Cranel.

(……Ah ah, really. I wanted to watch the growth of that child for a while longer……)

The matter about Bell’s astonishing growth speed, Freya obviously knew about it.

Although she currently did not know the reason, but using her goddess’s eyes, she was able to see that he was currently growing at a rate that was incompatible with the common sense.

(……In the end, I still have to do this type of extra matters.)

Freya let out a child-like smile.

It was a feeling as if she wanted to tease him.

She wanted to see which will happen when the other will receive her teasing, what kind of reaction will it be, and for her own entertainment.

Really now, this was something that a child would do.

However, currently she could not stopped it anymore. The first time meeting him, that impulse burned her heart and caused even love, this drove Freya to do these kinds of things.

Wanting to see the boy's puzzled expression, wanting to see the boy's crying expression ——And more importantly, wanting to see the boy's heroic gestures.

"……"

"*Fu,Fuuu*……!?"

The Silverback's intense breathing sound echoed. Freya lovingly stroke the Silverback's cheek as if he was on her side.

Letting the Monster out, perhaps a tiny mistake will cause Bell to die.

Freya suddenly thought about this possibility that she had never thought of before, but, she continued to laugh.

If that boy was to die.

(Then I'll follow him.)

No matter where, she would go seek the soul that was leaving the Lower World and ascending to Heaven.

(I'll hug him tightly)

Then letting that captured soul fall into her loving embrace.

Once she thought about this, Freya could not help but narrow her eyes and laugh happily. Those pair of eyes that was filled with love and tenderness, at the same time, it was filled with some sadistic colors.

The smile that remained on her face approached the Silverback's face that her hands were holding onto. The monster's body trembled violently.

(So I said)

The next moment, Freya placed her lips on the Monster's forehead.

(You have to wait for me okay?)

The Monster's roar echoed through the entire space.

× × ×

"Kami-sama, what did you and Eina talk about?"

"Yes yes, it was just a casual chat."

In order to find Seal, Kami-sama and I walked around the surroundings of the Coliseum again, then we once again appeared at the East Main Street. Because the festival had already begun, most of the people had already entered the coliseum, so the busy street earlier was completely different from the scene right now, it was much more relaxed.

"Ah, Bell-kun. The person you are looking for is also a female?"

"Eh? Ah, yes. It is a female human with gray hair and eyes. She has a relatively tall stature, which is about the same height as me……"

I had mistakenly thought that she was asking about the physical characteristics of Seal, so I told the features to Kami-sama. Kami-sama seemed to have an

expression as if she did not care, and listened quietly. Then she used a reproachful gaze to look at me.

Facing this kind of reprimanding gaze, I could not help but feel afraid.

"Eh, Kami-sama?"

"……What I talked about with the adviser just now, you really are a perfect person～"

"Eh……W…What do you mean?"

"Hmmph～"

Kami-sama turned her head to the side.

The twintails on both her head also followed, as if it was expressing her dissatisfaction to me.

I do not know why Kami-sama suddenly became upset. I only know that if I was anxious here, then I cannot do anything.

“_____?”

“……What is it, Bell-kun?”

I had stopped my footsteps, Kami-sama who had walked in front of me a few steps also turned around, with a face filled with doubts.

I completely forgot about responding to Kami-sama, and seemed to be pulled around and looked around.

Right now, that really was it.

What kind of sound rang in my ears.

It was different than the bustling sounds of the Festival, it was a sounds that felt very urgent and sharp.

“……Is it the sounds of screaming?”

The moment I muttered this phrase to myself.

209

Immediately, a louder sound came out.

“M…MONNSTTERRRRRR!?”

As if everything had froze, the peaceful and bustling street suddenly became fearful.

Then I saw it.

The path that led to the depths of the coliseum.

A stampeding sound that rang out from the stone roads, a Monster with pure white hair, rush over in a threatening manner.

× × ×

The Monster, which is also the Silverback was also extremely excited.

It breathed hard and used all its muscles to move. Its long and silver hair fluttered in the wind as if it was being controlled and continued

to rush forward.

What it was looking for, it was a goddess.

What emerged in its mind was the figure of the shiny and silver hair fluttering in the room disappearing. From its body and soul, the Silverback was completely entranced, and it was being pushed forward by a feeling that it had never felt before and a feeling that it could not restrain, as if there were invisible locks causing it to chase after her figure.

To seek for her love!

To seek for the goddess to pamper it!

It was a completely different instinct that fueled the Monster to act.

It was completely different nature of the Monster, this was indeed the act for seeking love.

210

“Ahhhhhhhhhhhh!”

“Ha!?”

In the center of the street, a carriage hit it and was immediately sent flying away.

The horse screamed constantly, and the unprepared driver also soared in the air and hit the ground, and did a few cartwheels. The wheels of carriage, that was completely flipped, was still rolling around in the air.

The important clue of the goddess was the residual aroma, which was already becoming somewhat vague. Was it because of its excitement that it lost its ability to judge and decided on a wrong path? Suddenly, the sweet fragrance had completely disappeared.

The Silverback turned and looked around, then it stopped at a spot. *Fu,fu*. It tried heard to sniff that smell while looking around.

There were many people here. Many of these people have gone completely limp, some had used both hands to cover their mouth and their faces were extremely pale.

These people formed a huge circle surrounding the Silverback.

Afterwards, just when the Silverback was about to end the lives of the surrounding people.

The Silverback's bloodshot eyes saw her figure.

Its expression was stunned and it was looked at this black-haired girl.

It was a completely different existence than the surrounding people.

That must be a existence that even towered over all living things.

It was basically a similar existence to the goddess it was pursuing.

It thought for a while.

"——Go chase after that tiny goddess okay?"

This was the last words she said to his ears.

——He saw it.

211

To the girl that widened its eyes, the Silverback took a big step forward.

× × ×

"____"

The moment it took a step forward.

Various screams echoed from the general crowd to escape.

"……B…Bell-kun?"

I pulled Kami-sama's hands, took a step, two steps, and immediately retreated behind.

This creepy feeling spread through my entire body and it completely matched my heart's feeling as well.

The white burly body. The silver hair that went over the waist. That complete and overwhelming existence.

That fellow's eyes were senselessly looking at the direction of Kami-sama and I.

My breathing had almost stopped.

Why is there a Monster? What happened in the end? I still placed these ideas of figuring what happened at the back of my head.

This feeling of my entire body sweating, I had experienced it several times before ——It was the same as the encounter with the Minotaur, a feeling of being totally helpless dominated my entire body.

In the two sides, who would be the one that will be ravaged. I understood the answer of this question instantly.

——Then, should I try?

This voice, I felt that I have heard it before.

6章 バンプ・オブ・チキン！

Chapter 6: Bump of Chicken

“Ganesha-sama, Ganesha-sama! This is bad, big trouble!”

The hot sunlight shone down onto the corner of the coliseum, the performance was still ongoing.

Monster Festival was still continuing. The audience’s excitement had already reached a climax as they watched the tamer perform a horse-riding show, and gallantly rode behind the long head of the dragon.

“————What is so urgent, I am Ganesha.”

“”Ah, I know!? But this is not the time to introduce yourself right!?”

On the uppermost seats of the coliseum, Ganesha, who was standing in a location that oversees the entire Philia, saw his own familia members rushed up. That elephant mask seemed to expressed a strange posture.

To this god, who sometimes have a special behavior, his own familia member also whispered in her own heart, but she still immediately reported the emergency situation to him.

“The monsters we captured have escaped! The monster stables are completely empty!?”

“……Uh, isn’t this a lot of trouble?”

“Isn’t that what I just told you?”

Facing Ganesha-sama, who had finally stopped his weird actions, his Familia members quickly spoke and reported the general situation.

An unknown person had knocked out the basement guards. Some members of the guild were also affected. From this information, they predicted that someone outside had deliberately caused the chaos.

With a strange expression, Ganesha listened. After he finished listening to their words, he quietly asked a question.

“Escaped, no, it should be how many monsters were let out?”

“N…Nine. That includes a few monsters that would not lose against the strength of high-class adventurers……”

Ganesha continued to maintain his elegance and did not act. However, the elephant mask that he was wearing was trembling.

The resounding cheers on the central arena continued to echo. Standing in front of the small dragon, the tamer issued off a command to stop, and at the same time, placed his own hand towards the other. The monster quietly *hmmphed* then humbly bowed its head down and used its tongue to lick the hand of the tamer.

WAAAAA~~!! The cheers exploded once again. This beautiful tamer, that managed to tame the dragon, lifted his hand and waved at the audience. The audience unreservedly continued to offer cheers and applauses.

“Okay, immediately chase after those monsters! Also, quickly seek the help of other Familia! Find the God-sama that came to the venue and ask them for assistance.”

“P…Please wait a minute!? No matter what reason it is, but letting the monsters out is our mistake. If we request from help from other forces, then we may be looked down upon in the future……”

“I am everybody’s Ganesha! Do you want the civilians that we protect to be injured! The greatest blessing should be the smiles of the child. Position and reputation, these things can be just thrown aside.”

“Y…Yes!? I am really really sorry!”

“The Festival will continue! Do not let the coliseum audience out. Also, do not tell them the truth that the monsters have escaped! This will only lead to unexpected chaos.”

“U…Understood! Also, about the matter of capturing the one that let the monsters out……”

“Oh, we will temporarily ignore that. Because after all, they did not release all the monsters out, so it should just be an overboard prank,

and they should not have wanted to cause destruction. I think they have another goal. If we mobilize our entire forces, we will just mess each other up and that might be what they want. To us, the civilian's safety is the **MOST! IM-POR-TANT!** "

Go now! After receiving Ganesha's orders, the familia member quickly ran out.

The monsters' escape was confirmed to be less than 5 minutes ago. According to their god's command, the Ganesha Familia had quickly taken the appropriate measures.

"Monsters, Escaped?"

This was when Ganesha had knew about this matter.

In front of the coliseum, Eina had also received this information.

"Ehhh,Ahh! Just when they ran out from the coliseum, they were seen by the team on the west side. Ganesha Familia is also hurriedly taking the appropriate measures……What should we do, Eina～"

In that moment, Eina felt stunned. However, she immediately switched her thinking. Her eyebrows creased.

Afterwards, she immediately said to her friend that was about to cry.

"No matter what actions we do, it will still be good. Base on the distance from shortest to furthest, quickly contact the surrounding Familias! Also any adventurers too!"

"I…Is it really okay for us to do this? We do not know what the higher ups will say……"

Currently the guild employees at the location only included Eina and a few low ranked employees. When the West Entrance had problems, because they needed reinforcements, even the managers were sent over there.

The surrounding colleagues were all the same, to singly decide on their actions, they could not conceal their inner anxiety and confusion.

“That is not important compared to people getting hurt! Also, Ganesha-sama will also understand that we need to prioritize saving human lives. They do not have any reason to object to us seeking help from other Familia! If something happens, then it will already be too late!”

“T…That makes sense. If something regretful happens, then it will really be too late.”

Eina combined the personality of Ganesha-sama, who managed the Monster Festival, and the happy civilians who were actively participating, and slowly persuaded her colleagues.

Perhaps her sincere thoughts were effectively, but the other guild employees looked at each other and expressed in agreement towards Eina’s views. Afterwards, they immediately began to discuss about how to divide the tasks on how to deal with this matter.

“……Excuse me. May I ask what has happened?”

Without any premonition, a voice sounded out beside Eina and the others.

When everybody turned to look at the voice of the owner, everybody seemed to be stunned and frozen.

“A…Aizu Wallenstein……”

Hearing the stupefied voice of her colleagues, Eina also used a surprised gaze to stare at the female in front of her.

The soft and elastic thighs were half-covered by the miniskirt, on the top half was a short shirt. The rapier, that was usually placed on top of the armor, was also inside its sheath, and hung onto the side of the body. The waist length blonde hair sparked in the sunlight.

She was one of the strongest adventurers in the entire Orario. To Eina and the others, she is an completely unattainable existence, and was standing right in front of them.

The nearest employee immediately flew off and explained the matter to Aizu.

She quietly listened and once she completely understood the situation, she turned her head behind.

“Loki”

“I heard it. Seems like it is completely unsuitable for a date now. Then we should also slightly help out Ganesha, that fellow.”

Listening to the answer of the slightly smiling Loki, the guild employees were filled with joy.

The color on their face had eased down, even Eina felt a peace of mind; But she felt her shoulders stiffen again when she heard the next question.

“Then, where are those monsters, do you know?”

“Y…Yes. Most of the monsters headed off in the direction of East Main Street.”

East Main Street, isn’t that the place where Bell, who was looking for someone, headed off to?

Since the matter was so huge, could that boy be involved in the center of things.

“Misha, what kind of monsters escaped?”

“Eh? Let me think, it should be……Sword Stag, Troll and also a Silverback”

Listening to her friend’s answer, Eina’s brows creased.

The floor that the Silverback appear is on 11th Floor. Sword Stag and Troll are monsters that even appear further down on the 20th floor.

To an adventurer that barely survived on the 5th floor, these monsters were an insurmountable existence.

“Please, you must obediently head to a shelter……”

Eina lifted her head and stared at the sky in the direction of East Main Street.

She could not do much, besides from praying for the safety of Bell-kun.”

× × ×

The nervous atmosphere caused my ears to even feel some minor pain.

“*Rugugguuu……*”

In this bright and brilliant street that was decorated with flags everywhere, there was a completely different existence that appeared.

Listening to the echoing cries from the surrounding, I was at a complete loss of words.

That monster, with its long hair that seems like a tail, roared. The handcuffs and chain on its wrist, which look like it was torn off from a wall with brute force, let out a grinding noise as it dragged along on the floor.

That is, a Silverback?

I remembered the name because of Eina-san’s guidance and her lessons about the dungeon.

This was a monster that appeared in a floor far below the floor that I reached.

Although it’s still weaker than a Minotaur, its strength is definitely greater than mine.

“*Kiiaa……!* “

The Silverback began to move.

It’s knees bent down slightly and it took a step towards Kami-sama and I.

——It’s coming over.

As my heart tightened up, the Silverback accelerated and sprinted over.

“!?”

“Waaaah!?”

I must dodge to the side. I held onto Kami-sama and prepared to dodge the enemy's body.

I completely did not gave her any time to react. I held that tiny body as she screamed in terror. Our bodies rolled beautifully together with me on the stone road.

After rolling two or three times, we stopped. I swiftly lifted my head and kneeled on my knee.

Using a posture that covered Kami-sama and stood up.

"UUUuuu……!"

The Silverback that had its attack dodged turned around and rushed towards this side.

It's ferocious eyes targeted us, and once again, rushed over to us.

(Why is it coming again!?)

Looking at the monster that had absolute no confusion about heading towards us, I swiftly pulled Kami-sama and headed towards the right-hand direction. That was the exact opposite direction of where the monster had headed to.

My action of wanting to allow Kami-sama to escape for danger did not even take a single second. But my action was futile as the Silverback immediately fixed its own direction.

(What!?)

I was shocked as I looked at the Silverback change it's direction.

This monster was not looking at me, it's locked target was ——Kami-sama!?

My legs trembled. I was too reckless when I dodged the enemy's attack earlier, and I had sprained my body. To the fellow that seemed to be blocking the monster's way, it did not give any excessive thoughts and simply acted.Its thick right hand swung through the air.

"——Ha!?"

“*Gugooooooo～*”

The violent punch exploded on my body.

My body was still tilted to the right a bit. The enemy’s attack still hit my stomach.

Although it hit the armor on top, but it still created a massive impact and my breathing nearly stopped.

I felt that my entire field of vision seemed to have frozen, and my body seemed to have been shot away.

“Ah!?”

I struck a shop in the side of the street. The sound of the wood breaking made a refreshing noise.

I endured the pain that surged through my entire body. Currently, I had been knocked into a small shop. To be accurate, half of my body was stuck inside the shop. The armor on my body had a fist imprint on it, and I clutched my stomach trying to breathe.

“UWAHHHHHH”

The street had entered a state of complete chaos.

The surrounding people constantly screamed and fled in all directions.

Just like a spider larvae, everyone was scrambling and striving to be first. In an instant, everyone was gone. There was no one that I could ask to help Kami-sama.

“……!?”

“Fu…uu!”

In front of the approaching Silverback, stood a girl shivering.

My mind instantly flared up.

“Ughhh, NOOOO”

Enduring the pain that was eroded my entire body, my body also had some strength.

With tears overflowing from my eyes, I rushed over.

I ran over to the chains that were attached to the monsters hands that created the grinding sound on the floor.

“Waaaa!”

With a slamming sound, the chains were stretched, and the Silverback stopped advancing.

To this small fellow that simply pulled onto the chain, the monster’s gaze became extremely sharp and impatiently pulled with all its strength.

My body was easily thrown aside.

“Ughhhh……”

“*Gigyi!* ”

In terms of strength, there was no comparison. In front of the monster’s power, I was completely helpless.

Despite this, I still used my entire body’s strength to pull onto the chain——Then without any warning, the chain slipped out from my hands.

“*GIAAAA*”

Suddenly releasing the chain had caused the Silverback to stumble back due to the reverse momentum. The chain drew a big arc in the sky. For now, an opening had formed.

I ran past the monster in one breathe and grabbed onto Kami-sama’s hands.

“This way!”

————If we walk on the Main Street, we’ll be caught!

I grabbed onto Kami-sama's hand and ran towards the alley that divided the Main Street.

Immediately, an angry, beast-like roar sounded from behind.

222

The drama about escaping, where the ending was completely unknown, has just begun.

"Why is it like this? Why is Kami-sama being targeted?"

"H…How would I know!? It is the first time for me to see that monster! I really did not do anything!"

I held onto Kami-sama's tiny arms, and used a moaning sound to inquire about this situation. Kami-sama's response also seemed to be asking me to figure out what had happened. She seemed very uneasy and held onto my hand even more tightly.

The evil aura that was approaching from behind had not completely disappeared, and it was still closely following.

The Silverback continued to chase after us, no, it should be chasing after Kami-sama.

It looks like the monster was not trying to randomly attack others. It looked like it was being controlled by someone and had a clear purpose.

(What on earth is happening!?)

Holding these unanswerable doubts, I led Kami-sama and tried to escape.

Although it was still daytime, the inside of the alley felt faint and gloomy. This kind of situation contributed further to our unease. Looking above, the sky and the terrain seemed to maintain the exact same shape, the sunlight was unable to shine down here.

We ran down the path and headed to the south of the East Main Street. This means that we are currently running in an area between East Main Street and South-East Main Street.

We did not know where our destination was. We just ran aimlessly,

because there was no time for us to think about it.

I turned my head back, in front of my eyes was Kami-sama, who had a painful expression because she was unable to breathe. Behind her was a dark shadow that extended all the way to the end of the path. I completely could not see any signs of the monsters.

223

However, It was still there.

It was still closely following us, this is what my instincts told me.

I turned my line of sight back to the front, then I selflessly increased my leg's running strength. What remained inside my head was to quickly escape from this situation, no matter what, we should still run first. Just like that.

"……Bell-kun, I can't! It is already……!"

"Eh!?"

Listening to Kami-sama's voice panting for breath, I finally came to my senses.

Then after passing the big bend on the path, I finally understood the meaning of the sentence.

"____"

After running through this tiny alley, we were now in this messy space.

There were many bends in the alley; On the walls, a few rooms and dirty stairs appeared unnaturally. The terrain was built according to whoever lived there, so it was also arranged quite messily.

This complex structure, was similar to many floors in the dungeon.

This is <Daedalus Road>……?

It was a maze within Orario.

Because the area was rebuilt many times, so it had become a confusing residential street.

This was a strange and complex area that was inhabited by the poor. It was said that once you got lost there, you will never be able to leave from there. This residential area was named after the designer who was responsible for arranging this region; Because it caused others to become lost, it was more like a dungeon than the actual dungeon.

This isn't good, if we're at this kind of place, the monster will easily catch up.

224

It was obvious that if we continue walking down more of these alleys, we may end up getting flanked.

I took a glance with Kami-sama, who was still gasping for air. Her quick-witted eyes seemed to have completely seen through my fear and could only bitterly avoid it.

"AHHHHHHHHHHHHH!"

"!?"

From the alley, the monster's figure could be clearly seen within our visions.

The only thing we could do was choose this route and move forward. I grabbed onto the hand of Kami-sama and headed towards Daedalus Road.

After moving down from the stairs, we suddenly entered this dignified maze. The air inside this dark, constructed residential area seemed to be sticky and wet.

The residential street, no, it should be called the Labyrinth Street, was composed of many small huts made with stones. On the wall outside of the house was a few Magic Stone Chandeliers letting out a faint glow. The residents that seemed to be dressed up very neat seemed to understand completely the complex road and was walking around.

Once they noticed us running, and the Silverback behind us, the color in their face completely changed. Instantly, screams echoed throughout the entire street and the entire area had become deserted.

"*Guga~*"

“……!”

We were still being chased. And Kami-sama’s stamina, who has no difference compared to a normal human, had already reached its limits.

In fact, she had already worked hard to endure it till here. The gradually approaching Silverback seemed to be able to seize Kami-sama, who was gradually slowing down, if it stretched out its hand.

“Kami-sama, turn there!”

225

“Y…Yes……”

We swiftly turned into another path from our current road. After running up a few uphills, we took a fork and entered another road. This way we have changed our route many times.

(Did we escape from it?)

Relying on the complex structure of this labyrinth, we seemed to have created a distance from the Silverback. I observed the rear.

Currently, I could not see the figure of the monster. Could it be that it gave up and retreated? I suddenly felt at ease for a moment.

“_____“

My sense of hearing seemed to feel the abnormal movement first.

It feels like it was kicking something, and the sound of the stone creaking.

Once I thought that the disturbing sound was coming from somewhere that wasn’t that far away, a huge shadow appeared on the stone road below my feet.

(This is bad————!?)

Directly above, from the gap between the houses where you could see the sky, it was cut off by a white-object several times.

It was like an ape-like monster, it was completely moving like it was

between trees, and gently moved between the buildings. Completely ignoring the structure of this labyrinth and approached us swiftly from the sky.

“GIAAAAAAAAAAAAA”

“!” “Ah!?”

It was a surprise attack from above. The monster that dropped right in between me and Kami-sama caused us to separate our hands. Following the explosive sound of the landing, Kami-sama and I were each standing separately at one side.

226

And I was looking face to face with the Silverback. Just when I was about to quickly run over to the other side where Kami-sama was, the monster that was blocking me also made its move.

“OOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!”

I, who was standing in front of it, completely received this massive roar.

“——Ha?”

There was no special effect, it could not even count as an attack, it was just an intimidating roar.

It was a roar that could only come from the instincts of a wild beast, but it deeply shook the very roots of my will to move, my actions was easily forcibly stopped.

I had completely entered a state of <Terror>.

“Hiiiiii”

The pressure from the Silverback was the real deal.

Facing the fierce roar this close had woken up my repressed memories that I once buried. What was awaken in my mind was the Minotaur.

The roars of that fierce cow suddenly arose, causing my ears to feel pain. My legs also continued to tremble.

(——)

Right now I was standing at a crossroad.

In front was a enemy. A monster that I could not shake off. Looking at it, I was reminded of the symbol of despair, the Minotaur. I really wanted to escape far far away.

Inside there was a person. An existence that I must protect. The hand that was separated from me was still waiting for me to hold onto it.

(Scary——)

227

Fear and Obligations, Imagination and Mission. The completely contrasting feelings and instincts constantly battled within my body.

(Scary——)

Facing this rebellious impulse, my weak sense of responsibility seemed to be simply conquered.

(Extremely scary, but ——)

Despite this.

(——I am still a ＜Man＞!?)

Because of the tiny will of being a man, I could not back away from this.

Go.

Go on.

Go Forward!

You must go on ahead right!?

You absolutely cannot leave a ＜Girl＞ behind and escape by yourselfffffffffff!!

“——UWAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHH!?”

This roar contained all the courage within myself.

It felt like as if I expelled all the fear away, and unexpectedly, strength surged through my body.

I stomped towards the Silverback.

“GAAAAAAAAAAAAAA”

The Silverback also went on attack.

The thick arms that was still attached to a chain, pierced through the sky and attacked. I could only rely on my body’s instincts to move.

228

Suddenly, I lowered my head and that exaggerated left fist passed through the top of my head.

I equipped my dagger on me, this was a golden opportunity.

As the enemy’s left chest approached my without any defenses, I also went head-on and used my strength to slash at it.

“Ha!?”

However.

What rang out was a metallic sound.

The dagger that I was swing on my left hand also felt a strong impact and completely crushed my entire arm.

The weapon bounced off. The dagger did not even pierce through that white, rough hair on its chest, and only leave a silverfish spot.

——The dagger shattered?

A lightning-like impact surged through my body. Looking at the scattered fragments of the blade, my cheeks unconsciously twitched.

My all-out attack did not even hurt the Silverback!!

I was completely stunned by the scene in front of my eyes, and could not speak.

Then I felt myself floating in the air.

“*Gi*!?”

The Silverback used its two big hands and held me tightly, then pressed me directly to the wall.

I received an overwhelming impact as my back hit the wall. My breathing stopped for a moment, as I tried to open both my eyes.

“*Guruuaa*”

What was in front of me right now, was a ugly monster face.

229

How could this be? Just when I was thinking about this, the Silverback deliberately showed me its razor-like fangs and opened its bloody mouth. My face became completely distorted due to fear.

“Bell-kun!”

If this continues, then I will really be finished……!?

Listening to Kami-sama’s cry, I tried hard to twist my body, wanting to escape from the other’s binds——At this moment, my fingers seemed to have touched something.

I lowered my gaze, it was a Magic Stone Lamp that was installed onto the wall.

There was no room for thinking. I reached out and took the Magic Stone Chandelier from the wall. I single-handedly operated the fist-sized Magic Stone product, and turned on the light to the maximum.

Pressing the Magic Stone Chandelier, that was so bright that you could not open your eyes, directly to the monsters eyes from my hands.

“GIGEEEEEEEEEEEEE”

When it’s eyes received such an attack, the Silverback screamed. It guarded its eyes and took a few steps backwards.

The hand that was pressed onto my shoulder finally loosened up, and I fell onto the ground.

I struggled with the pain in my body. With a expression where I was

about to cry, I ran over to Kami-sama. Before she could say what she wanted to say, I grabbed onto her hand and immediately began our journey to escape once again.

“Bell-kun……?”

“……!”

A unspeakable remorse filled my heart.

No matter how much courage I have, I could not protect Kami-sama.

I am so weak, I completely failed to protect the person in front of me.

230

Weak, Poor, Frail, Fragile, Delicate, Spineless, Flimsy, Powerless, Vulnerable and Lame me!

It felt that I had completely accepted these ridicule phrases. It surged through my mind, and caused a pain in my chest.

The voice of the beastman youth, even Wallenstein had heard of the phrases that describe that trash, once again echoed through my mind.

Exactly the same, the same as that time.

The weak me could only regret constantly.

“*UUUUUOOOOOOOOOO*”

“!”

It was a beast-like roar from afar.

The angry monster’s roar echoed through Daedalus Road.

The enemy will chase once again.

(If this continues on……!)

We will certainly be caught up, even if we were to be lucky, it will absolutely not happen a third time. What can I do……What should I do?

In order to protect Kami-sama, In order to help her, what should I

do……!

“_____“

As these thoughts flashed through my mind, a simple answer appeared.

It was the conclusion after finally thinking it over. It was a method that even the weak me was capable of doing.

There was no need to protect her.

If it was to help Kami-sama, then it was enough.

“Hey, Bell-kun, What……?”

231

Looks like I finally understood, the complicated feelings that were on my face also disappeared, Kami-sama gasped while she asked me. It feels like she was worried about what was going to happen.

I completely ignored Kami-sama’s question and turned to the right in the crossroad.

In front, there was a long, but not a steep slope, after running through this dirty and black stone road, was a tunnel—— A narrow sewer appeared, looking inside, you could see the faint sunlight. If we pass through this place, it should reach the residential area nearby.

I did not say anything to Kami-sama, and directly threw Kami-sama inside. Kami-sama, who was thrown inside, had a surprised expression and turned her head to look at me.

Then, I slowly shut the iron fence that was located near the entrance.

“Bell-kun!?”

“……Sorry, Kami-sama”

After completely closing the iron fence, the atmosphere between Kami-sama and I became cold.

My face had a painful expression, and I struggled to apologize using my own mouth.

“Kami-sama, please continue to head on straight.”

“I……What are you planning to do!?”

“……I’ll distract the monster and buy some time.”

To the weak me, who was unable to protect this person, it was the only method to help her.

Being the bait.

While I divert the monster away, I can allow Kami-sama to run to a safe place and hide.

232

Perhaps she understood my real intentions, Kami-sama had a shocked face and stood there stunned.

“Y…You…Why are you saying such stupid things!???”

“Please, Kami-sama. Be quiet and please listen to my words!”

“No! I disagree! I will absolutely not agree to such a thing! Immediately open this, Bell-kun!”

“Kami-sama……”

Kami-sama shook her head intensely and completely denied my wish.

That small body clinged onto the unmovable iron fence, trying to push it forward, and the same time yelled loudly to me.

Facing the feelings that had led me, I felt happy, but at the same time, I felt said.

There was no time. I kneel and looked at Kami-sama face to face, and sincerely said.

“Kami-sama……I…do not want to lose my family again!”

“……!”

Persuading her, this difficult thing was impossible to me.

So I can only follow my own heart and say the words that laid deep in

my heart.

That was something that happened before. Before I came to Orario, Before I met Kami-sama.

I lost my grandfather, the only one relative in the world to me.

My grandfather was killed by a monster. Because he was attacked while he left the village for business, at that time, I was not there, there was nothing I could do. I could only hear the news about his death from the villager's mouth, nothing more.

At that time, the feeling of losing something was deeply engraved into my heart.

So, from the depths of my heart, the concept of family was precious.

233

"I am extremely afraid about losing my family……I could not protect anyone, that was what I was most scared of."

Coming to Orario to have a fateful encounter was absolutely not a lie. As if it was to confirm the bonds between my grandfather, in order to protect these bonds so it would not be broken off, I listened to this person's words, and went to search for that fateful encounter.

However, I believe that besides from that, somewhere in my heart, I was also expecting something else. That is the warmth of a family.

The gods were able to give, that was the bonds of a family.

I…Wanted family members.

"So, Please, Allow me to protect Kami-sama, this family member!"

I knew that I could not protect her, yet I still said these words. No, it should be because I could not protect her, so that's why I said this wish out loud.

While in this short period of time, she listened to me, Kami-sama opened her cute eyes and stared at me, her face has also become increasingly bitter.

"……Please quickly leave here and go seek for help!"

“……Bell-kun!”

After I said this final sentence, I stood up.

Kami-sama’s eyebrows creased, her face was filled with sadness. She raised her head to look at me.

“……There’s no problem. The speed of my ＜Agility＞, Kami-sama, you should know about it!”

In the end, I still strongly smiled at Kami-sama.

Then I took a step back, turned around, and ran.

Hearing Kami-sama constantly calling me from behind, but I did not look back.

234

This happened because of my own weakness of not being able to accomplish anything. Sorry! I used my trembling voice and apologized once again.

“……!”

I ran while I kept using my hand to rub my face, then I followed back the road we came from and returned to the crossroad.

The monster still had not come. While I paid attention to the movements above my head, I put my hand into the pouch on my leg. The potion that had ＜Miach Familia＞’s emblem —— I took one of the tubes and drained the deep green liquid that it contained.

My fatigue was reduced. My stamina has also recovered, it felt that my strength surged upwards.

The pain in my entire body had completely become relieved.

The Silverback ran out from the end of the path.

This time I ran into the path directly opposite and turned my head around.

“Uuuu……?”

“Come, over here!”

The monster noticed Kami-sama was not around, and looked left and right. But I loudly provoked it.

“GAAAAAAAAAAAAAA”

(Okay!)

After confirming that the monster was running over towards me, I also began to run.

This happened because of my own weakness of not being able to accomplish anything. Sorry! I used my trembling voice and apologized once again.

While I was escaping, my sight was attracted to the bright right lines on the wall. It was a guidepost. The residents living here probably painted it. It looks like if you

head in the direction of the arrow, you can escape from the Labyrinth Street. If Kami-sama saw these signs, then it should be easy for her to escape.

Thinking about it backwards, if I head in the opposite direction of the arrow, I should be able to reach the depths of Daedalus Road. If I lead it over there, then it will further ensure the safety of Kami-sama.

I, who found the directions, immediately headed to the opposite direction of the guided signs.

(……)

Numerous gazes were looking at us.

From the shadows of the nearby streets, from the small windows in their houses, many eyes were constantly gasping. In a variety of places, they were observing the movements of me and the monster.

However, the residents were extremely fearful of the monster.

(Who, in the end, who was it?)

Most of the gazes were blameful gazes to me, who brought this trouble over here.

However, there was a completely different gaze that I could not ignore, a gaze with a strong feeling.

It was completely different than the fearful gaze, it felt like a carefree and relaxed gaze.

For awhile now, this person has been watching me. It was a feeling of déjà vu, where it felt like it was licking my skin. Although the feeling was uncomfortable, my consciousness was still attracted to it.

Targeted, no, it felt more like being completely observed……

Words cannot fully describe the faint chill that emerged in my throat. I used my hand to cover my mouth.

“*Gruuaa*!”

“Kuuu!”

236

Just when I was about to run out from this path, I could not completely dodge the attack above from the Silverback. I was thrown onto the stone road. I could only roll around on the floor and finally rolled into a slightly wide, oval space.

Although it looked rather rough, a sprinkler that was spouting a water pillar was in the center. Here, numerous roads connected to this space. The area had an atmosphere that felt like it was for a resting area.

“*GRAAAAAA*”

“!?”

From nearby, you could tell that the Silverback was abnormally excited. Its attacks on me gradually became more intense, and maybe it was because it could not find Kami-sama.

I do not know how, but even the two chains on its wrist also began to swing around like a whip.

The ground was shattered, the walls were cut apart, it was just like as if a tragic storm had passed by.

Because of the irritating sound of the air, being pierced through by the

monstrous power, constantly attacked me. The unavoidable sounds made me unable to concentrate.

And the chains that were controlled by the strong wrist continued to let off a ferocious attack over and over again.

“~~~~~~~~~~~~~!?”

Finally, I was caught.

It was an attack aimed at the head.

Accompanied by a sharp, high-pitched roar, the chains were also straighten up, and tightly bounded me.

Although because I had placed my dagger to guard my head, I successfully blocked the attack, but the massive impact still spread through my entire body.

Red sparks flashed through my eyes, followed by my body flying away.

237

“Ahh, kuuu……!?”

I used my trembling arm to support my upper body that was glued onto the ground and desperately tried to stand up. I did not care about my body’s reaction to resist it, but it still failed.

As expected, I was completely unmatched. There was absolutely no way to win this.

My line of sight froze at the stone street, and the pain and remorse intertwined within my body.

I slowly raised my head. I saw the Silverback was spraying its saliva as it roared in a deep voice, as if it wanted to end me in the next attack. The chain that my hand was holding onto issued a metallic rattling sound.

I don’t want to die. I really do not want to die within my heart. However, but it seemed like my body and mind had already given up.

My body could not use any power, but my mind was still conscious.

My mind was still worried.

Kami-sama, did you escape safely? Right now my heart was also worried about that one thing.

(If that's the case, then at that time……)

It was this feeling.

The moment that person ran over to help me.

The moment that Wallenstein lent me a helping hand.

However, this time there was no hope that she would run over here and help me again. Because my heart still had this childish thinking of wanting to meet her once again, but at the same time, it was also because of this thinking that caused me to feel tangled.

This shameful posture, I do not want her to see it a second time.

I had already some confusion with the current and the past scene, and bowed my head as if I accepted my fate.

238

"Bell-kun!"

"____"

The time stopped for a moment.

That voice that called out to me brought my back from my blank consciousness, but my heart was severely affected by it as well.

Lifting up my head, my vision had recovered. But the scene in front of my eyes, I could not help but be stunned.

There was a person that came to help. It wasn't that person, but it was a person very important to me.

I saw the gasping Kami-sama, Hestia-sama.

How? Why? Why ——are you here?

Complex emotions surged through my incomprehensible body, not

even a single sentence could be forced within my mind.

“Uggghhhhh……”

“____“

If this continues, then the situation will develop in the worst possible direction.

The Silverback that finally found the presence of the existence it was searching for, it feels like the color in its eyes had changed, and the target it locked onto changed from me to Kami-sama.

It widened its eyes and stared.

The Silverback took a few steps towards Kami-sama, who was panting for breath, in the next moment, it used all its strength and rushed towards her.

“Kami-sama!?”

I began to run.

I suddenly broke the limits of my body and ran.

239

With this constant, moaning body that was filled with wounds, I instantly shortened the distance

Just when the monster’s wrist was about to touch Kami-sama, my hand hugged the tiny body.

“!”

We passed by the huge body of the monster that was right in front of us. I and Kami-sama had rushed into another path.

Just when I thought whether if I will fall down as I recklessly ran into another path, this time, there was really a long downhill slope and I rolled down magnificently.

Following the sounds of the screams, the world in front of my eyes spun over a dozen times.

“……K…Kami-sama, are you alright!?”

“A…Ah. Okay……”

After encountering such a strong impact, I who was thrown into the flat stone road, endured the pain in my body and confirmed the safety of Kami-sama. At the same time, Kami-sama who fell onto ground also felt dizzy and replied using a feeble voice.

After I felt assured, I immediately raised my voice and asked.

“**WHY? WHY ARE YOU HERE!? DIDN’T I TELL YOU TO HELD TO A**

SHELTER! IF THAT’S THE CASE, THEN WHAT IS THE POINT OF ME

DOING EVERYTHING……! ”

Kami-sama’s clothes were completely drenched in sweat. Probably, after I separated from her, she had continued to seek for me in Daedalus Road and ran everywhere.

Probably she predicted my actions through the guidepost? Or perhaps relying on the intelligence from the witnesses who observed my and the monster running around in the Labyrinth Street and finally came over here?

Since the things have developed to this point, Kami-sama also spoke, and said to me with complex feelings.

“……What a helpless child you are.”

Kami-sama, said this to me.

Her slightly dirty, yet cute face was lifted up, she used her hand to wipe her face, and gently smiled.

“I will not throw you away and leave by myself!”

“……”

“Didn’t you say you wanted to protect me? If that’s the case, then I will return it back to you!”

Just like this, Kami-sama continued to speak.

Her tiny mouth softly said.

Didn't we have an agreement?

"——!"

I remembered.

That promise that I absolutely cannot forget.

On that day, I swore, the promise that I decided to never let go of this hand.

——" Please, don't leave me alone" ——

I had given up, and irresponsibly broke the promise.

And left Kami-sama alone.

"……But, if this continues on, both of us will……!"

Frowning, I struggled to speak.

241

Then before I had finished speaking, Kami-sama was determined and interrupted my words.

"It is too early to give up, Bell-kun"

"Eh?"

"I have an idea."

After saying this, Kami-sama ruffled around her waist and took out a small box.

Under my gaze, Kami-sama had a prideful expression and opened the box.

"Ah"

"Eh?"

Suddenly, my hand's action completely stopped.

Kami-sama also had her mouth half open and looked above.

Following her line of sight, I also looked at the long staircase behind us, there was an ape-like silhouette that was rapidly descending.

This strong sense of déjà vu made both of our faces turn purple.

"GAAAAAAAAAAAA"

""HAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!?""

We immediately fled from the place.

The next second, the place that we were staying before was crushed by the Silverback. Kami-sama and I did not stop and continued to accelerate.

H…How, Kami-sama ——So fast!? She was actually running in front of me!?

Then what were those touching lines from earlier!?

"Kuuuu!?"

"K…Kami-sama!?"

242

Seeing Kami-sama fall onto floor, I could not help but exclaim.

I did not hesitate to pick up Kami-sama who was still remaining at a posture of bowing to the gods. At this moment, the Silverback was also quickly approaching us.

"S…Sorry, Kami-sama!"

"WAAA!?"

It was not the time to say this.

I gently held onto Kami-sama and used my maximum speed to escape.

A princess carry ——Just like what the heroes would always do in those fairy tales.

Princess —— Which is Kami-sama, was lying onto my chest, blushing and continued to mutter.

“Sorry, Bell-kun. Even in this situation, but I am still very happy from the bottom of my heart……!”

“What did you just say, Kami-sama!?”

Kami-sama’s words did not convey to myself.

Because of fear, I could only whole-heartedly think about running ahead, holding tight to Kami-sama. I used all my strength and pushed off. Kami-sama was surprisingly light. I slowly created a gap between us and the monster as I concentrated on running around and escaping this endless labyrinth.

But.

Finally, at last, we were abandoned by the goddess of luck.

“The path had already reached its end……”

In front was a three floor tall building, completely blocking the path, and forming a dead end. While heading here, it was also a straight path, meaning that there was no way to head back. Out path to retreat was completely blocked.

243

Kami-sama looked around, the residents of Daedalus Road continued to secretly watch us. However, once they noticed our gaze, they panicked and dodged to a side.

To anyone, monsters are a terrifying existence, if they were to hide us, then it will undoubtedly be asking for trouble. Such a reaction was to be expected and we could not blame them.

Slowly, the monster will catch up.

Beside me, who was sadly bowing down, Kami-sama used her hand to support her jaw, as if she was thinking of something.

“……No, this situation is also good.”

“EH!?”

Listening to the words that came out from Kami-sama's mouth, I was surprised and lifted my head.

Kami-sama, who was a lot shorter than me, used piercing eyes to stare at me.

"Bell-kun, you will defeat that monster."

"……!"

"I will update your status here once again. Afterwards, using your enhanced abilities, it should be enough to defeat that monster."

Indeed, if Kami-sama can update my status that was engraved on back again, then my ability will also significantly increase.

But……Even so, I still could not stand up against it.

Silverback is a monster that appeared on the 11th floor. To me, who have not yet reached the 6th floor, it was a figure that was double. It could be said that the difference between the level which the adventurer had achieved and the level which the monster appeared represents the difference in strength. My abilities may became slightly stronger, but against the Silverback, the monster was still an existence that was incomparable.

Even if I was to fight, I will still undoubtedly be unmatched. In that case……

"……It's impossible, Kami-sama. Kami-sama, you have already seen it? My attack was completely useless against that guy. Even if my power increased a bit, I will not be able to give it any fatal injuries."

After entering Daedalus Road, I had already tried to use my deadliest attack that I was capable of, but , as a result, I could not even break through its body hair.

Even if my Status was to be enhanced, and the strength of my weapon also increased, I do not think that it was possible to break through the enemy's defense.

"I……absolutely cannot defeat that guy."

I bowed my head sadly, and said in a dejected voice.

The insults that the beastman youth had said. The constant laughter of the customers at the pub. The scene was revived in my mind. Those scenes was still painful to the current me.

I could not hurt the Silverback, moreover defeat it. I, even I could not believe in it.

Right now, my self-confidence was completely gone.

“But, what if your attacks work?”

“——Eh?”

“If you could damage it, then you can defeat that monster, right?”

Kami-sama said this while using a hand to open the chest, and placing the item in front of me.

What was taken out was a black dagger within its sheath.

I was completely stunned, and I slowly pulled out the dagger from its sheath. What was astonishing about this dagger was that from the handle to its sheath, even the body, without any exception, was completely pure black.

It was a straight dagger that was completely dyed black.

There were complex engravings around the blade.

Then, as if Kami-sama was encouraging me, that ＜Hestia’s Dagger＞ began to let out a faint red light in my hand.

A few seconds later, I was completely stunned by the god-like artistic sense and the design of the weapon.

Lifting my head, Kami-sama used clear eyes to stare at me.

“Bell-kun, when did you become such a lowly fellow? Before, you were always saying stupid things about having a fateful encounter, and calmly headed to the depths of the dungeon, right? The you, who was carefree, at that time, found a goal and swore that you would

become stronger. Where did it go?”

Shrugging my shoulders, Kami-sama continued to use a gentle voice to speak.

“But I believe in you! You don’t want to take this risk? If it was the adventurer, Bell Cranel, who made that Wallen-whatever monster-like woman as a target, this kind of monster should be a piece of cake.”

Finally, Kami-sama’s face became solemn, and then continued to speak.

“I will make you win, so you must also show me your victory.”

“……”

“Right now, perhaps you may not believe in yourself. Then, in other words, can you trust me, the me, who completely trust in you.”

I almost cried out. I felt slightly nauseous and tears began to fall from the depths of my eyes.

Kami-sama smiled slightly, and used her cute wrist to wipe my eyes. Mingled with the sound of crying, I nodded my head and replied “Yes.”

× × ×

246

The sun gradually rose up to the sky.

Under the sunlight, the messy houses in Daedalus Road let off a small shadow. As the sun gradually became bigger in the sky, the sun rays were also becoming increasingly stronger.

Even the dead end of this long road had strong sunlight coming down.

(Hurry Hurry Hurry, Faster!)

Hestia used her small tongue to lick her lips, her cute and petite hands continued to work nonstop. In front of her was Bell’s back. He was currently in a kneeling posture and was quietly being idle. Hestia was completely focused on updating his status.

Bell had already removed the broken armor. Only the black colored

underwear remained on his upper body. Hestia constantly used her god's blood to draw Sacred Text.

You do not need to use your eyes to update the Status. After all, it was the experience inside the body of the Lower World people, using Status was an act of bringing it out. Even if it was separated by underwear, as long as the body itself holds the experience, then it will still be able to smoothly upgrade the Status.

"——Hey, Hestia? Listen to me."

The fear of not knowing when the monster will attack them, constantly surrounded them. Hestia remembered the words of Hephaestus.

"This dagger because of your engraved sacred text also has its own status. In other words, this weapon could also be considered as alive."

After Hephaestus had finished forging the mithril into the blade, Hephaestus added Status to it. This was the current ＜Hestia's Dagger＞.

What was engraved closely on the black blade was Sacred Text.

"Which also means that, just like the child that was granted God's Grace, it also uses the user's experience as food. Once there is sufficient experience, this weapon will also evolve."

So, this dagger could only be used by the people who also have Hestia's Grace. As a weapon, it could be considered as a fatally flawed and defective product.

Hephaetus had said this.

"As the user grows, this weapon also becomes stronger. As the user's level up, it will also demonstrate an appropriate level of strength."

So, it could be considered as the best weapon for adventurers who constantly grow.

Not too strong nor too weak, it was a weapon of growing.

"Currently, this weapon is weaker than all the other weapons. Your

child……Once you hand it to Bell Cranel, its growth will only just begun.”

It was an extreme case. When the user is weak, the dagger is also extremely weak.

Then as the user becomes the strongest, this dagger will also become the strongest weapon.

“To Blacksmiths, this type of weapon that can reach the strongest level, is absolutely tabooed. Then, definitely I will not forge this type of weapon.”

To her friend, who was filled with complaints, Hestia offered her sincere gratitude.

Right now, together with Bell, this <Hestia’s Dagger> was also being strengthened.

This weapon that will be effective against the Silverback was also maturing.

(The problem is……)

To Bell, who has the <Single-Minded Pursuit> skill in his status, how much will it be able to develop, and how much stronger will <Hestia’s Dagger> increase. This point was questionable.

“Kami-sama, it’s coming!”

“!”

The Silverback appeared from the corner of the straight and long path. Following, Hestia’s heartbeat also gradually accelerated, basically at the same time, the Status was also completed.

248

Bell Cranel

Lv.1

Strength: G 221 – E 403

Endurance: H 101 – H 199

Dexterity: G 232 – E 412

Agility: F 313 – D 512

Magic: I 0

(……!?)

In total, the proficiency increased over 600 points!??

It was an rapid increase. Could it still increase? It was already growing at an extraordinary speed.

The flames of jealousy to Aizu lit up in Hestia's chest, making her almost mad. But at the same time, it will also confirm something else.

(If that's the case……!)

The weapon's strength must have increased rapidly.

Bell's hand was holding onto that black blade, and like a fetus beating around, the purplish red light gradually increased.

(Next is all up to Bell-kun!)

Hestia patted the back with force as if she was sending the boy out.

"Okay, go!"

249

× × ×

"Okay, go!"

The moment after hearing this sound, Bell's bodily perception had reached its limit.

He was able to hear the sound of his heartbeat. His legs also felt that it

surrounded by a group of flames. However, his head was still clear and bright.

Hestia had already predicted before the update of the Status, it was an increasingly growth.

Using all his strength to push off. The leg that was kneeling also stood up.

“GAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!”

At the end of the road, at the opposite end, a monster was roaring in excitement.

It was the Silverback. Even though I have been strengthened, it was a monster that could defeat me.

There was a very slim chance of victory. Can I really defeat this monster, Bell was still dubious about this point.

However, even if he could not believe it, he still could not continue to remind himself.

If it was just like Hestia had said, no matter what, Bell will still believe in it.

To blindly follow the foolish ideas of his Goddess, Bell opened the curtain for the fight against the monster.

“____“

The Silverback stopped its roar.

Bell rush over in a straight line, his speed becoming even faster.

250

The increase of over 600 proficiency in his abilities gave Bell a completely different speed. Even though there may still be a large gap between them, but the Silverback also felt that the current Bell could possibly cause it to have fatal injuries.

“——Hey Hey, Bell-kun? Listen to what I have to say as a reference. Absolutely do not do any silly things that will risk your life!”

As Bell pierced through the space in front of him, he remembered the words that Eina-san had said to him.

“No matter how powerful a monster is, no matter how strong its defenses are, the monster must have the existence of an unavoidable weakness.”

Bell remembered Eina-san waving her fingers and passionately describing the postures of numerous monsters.

“As long as you target this weak spot, even a dragon will be defeated. It is a weak spot that will make even monsters cry.”

Remember. I remembered. Her voice and the words that she was about to say next.

“It only takes one attack. If you are able to penetrate through the enemy’s skin, then theoretically adventurers are able to defeat all the monsters.”

The reason behind why monsters are monsters was because they all carry the existence of a unique monster core.

“The rest, even if I don’t say it, you should understand it right? Yes, no matter what monster it is, it will always hold something in its chest ——“

——Magic Stone. That is the absolute weak spot for defeating monsters.

The place that Bell was targeting, was a little above the opponent’s chest.

The Silverback was also approaching. At that moment, the time seemed to be in slow motion, looking at the enemy raising its hand, Bell’s eyes froze.

＜Hestia’s Dagger＞ let out a faint light. A powerful attack seemed to be leaking out from the purplish-red blade, and it drew an beautiful arc in the air.

The dagger did not leave any rooms for maneuvers. A powerful pierce. An instant killing blow that he betted everything on.

His body seemed to have turned into a spear, Bell sprinted straight towards the enemy's chest.

"——AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!"

A sudden attack.

"*GRAAAAAAAAA*!!"

The black blade pierced through the center of the monster's chest.

Following the sense of touch that came from the hand, that pierced the flesh, what followed was the feeling of something hard being shattered.

The Silverback desperately widened its eyes and crashed onto the ground.

"————!?"

Suppressing the momentum of the sprint also made Bell blown away and flew into the sky.

Restricting the speed and being hit by its recoil was something totally unexpected.

In the end, the body that only wished to pierce through its enemy seemed to be like a human cannonball, and drew a parabola in the air.

Soon, he fell onto the ground.

"Gguuu!?"

After rolling on the ground a few turns, he finally stopped. Bell laid on the ground on his back, and moaned a few times and then tried to open his eyes to look at the enemy.

Lying on the road was a Silverback, a dagger was stuck in its chest, time seemed to be stagnant. And finally, the body began to collapse.

253

The body that had the Magic Stone destroyed began to turn into ashes, and following the wind, it had completely disappeared without leaving a trace.

CRASH <Hestia's Dagger> that remained rolled on the stone floor a few times, the purplish-red light continued to glow.

"————————————!!"

Immediately, sounds of cheers burst out from all directions.

It was the roars of excitement that burst out from the residents of Daedalus Road, who had been watching the battle between Bell and Silverback. It was completely different than before when they were trying to have low exposure and was hiding.

They stuck their bodies from the windows and kept cheering. In the corner of this Labyrinth Street, it was filled with enthusiasm that would not lost the coliseum.

Facing the constant praises about himself, from all directions, Bell also revealed a smile in his face.

At least they succeeded. In the depths of the road stood Hestia with a face filled with a glorious smile——Then she fell down onto the ground. Bell watched as the body slumped to the ground.

"Kami-sama!?"

Bell, who was pale, immediately recovered <Hestia's Dagger> then quickly ran to her side.

Then, Bell completely ignored the festive situation. He held her and quickly left the scene under the sounds of applause.

× × ×

254

"Although I did something bad to Hestia……But, this really makes one jealous."

From the top of a certain family's rooftop.

Freya stood in a high-up location where she could see Bell. She whispered.

Her silver eyes gazed at the figure of Bell gently holding Hestia.

Under the clear skies, the goddess seemed to be angry, then she immediately smiled again.

“Congratulations. Although I was slightly unwilling……Fufu, Yes, you were really cool.”

Looking at Bell’s figure, who did not bother to look left and right and immediately headed to the exit, Freya’s eyes were filled with fiery and slightly squinted.

Underneath the sunlight, the silver hair was whipped around by the wind, she also left that place.

“Then until next time——Bell.”

× × ×

“*GRAAAAAAAAAAAAAA*!?”

The Troll was instantly killed in a single attack.

“Is it over?”

“Yes……”

Following the sound of the silver rapier piercing through the sky, Aizu used a practiced action to place the blade back into its sheath. Looking at the monsters sprawled on the floor, from all directions, the civilians gathered over.

Behind Aizu’s back was a bored Loki. She used her hand to gently stroke her head and sighed.

“These people really do not know how to behave. It is supposed to be a serious situation …… but how should I put it, it seems like they were passionately cheering.”

Indeed. Aizu also agreed with Loki’s views within her heart.

Normally, they were running around trying to prevent the civilians from being injured. But they saw that the monsters completely ignored the civilians. It seems like the monsters were looking for something, and it looked like the monsters were circling the chaotic coliseum.

From the beginning to the end, it felt that they were completely in the

grasp of someone.

“Is this all of it?”

“No……There is still one remaining.”

Of the 9 monsters that escaped, currently only one monster was left, which was the Silverback.

To Aizu, these were enemies that she could effortlessly defeat. Loki, who was not motivated, just wanted everything to end faster and began to move her feet. Aizu also honestly followed.

According to the eye-witness information obtained from the civilians that escaped, it headed in the direction of East Main Street.

“Ah? What, is it already over?”

On the main street, people were coming and going, it looks like they were never scared by the monster, everybody seemed to be happy.

In the crowd that formed at the junction, Loki asked around for information.

“Uncle, where’s the monster? What is the situation right now?”

“About that. It seemed that a boy defeated the monster! A friend from Daedalus Road just told this to me. They were chased inside the labyrinth and he finally defeated the monster in one strike.”

“Eh, wait a minute, uncle. That boy, who is it?”

“Eh, it is not a resident from here, I have never seen it before. It was a boy adventurer, with red eyes and white hair……Oh, just like a rabbit!”

“Huh?”

Beside Loki, who was slightly confused, Aizu, who heard this news, trembled slightly.

(White hair……?)

Her heart thought about that person.

In the morning, the figure that she seemed to have seen from above the shop.

Because of her own reasons, and made him get hurt, the white hair boy with a pair of crimson red eyes.

“Excuse me, please let me go ahead.”

The group of people in front was still extremely excited. It seem that the adventurer had already left.

The civilians cheerfully began pushing each other. Loki also felt interested and said “I’ll also come” and immediately ran off to participate in this lively event.

Aizu, who was alone, stood there slightly lonely.

She, who was slightly troubled, was determined to get to the end of the crowd and participated in this event.

“——Sorry, please excuse me.”

“!”

At this moment, a boy, who was trying hard to break past the human wall, ran past Aizu.

After passing by, Aizu’s golden eyes followed the boy’s figure.

(……Really)

Aizu watched as the figure, who did not notice her, slowly disappeared.

257

There was absolutely no mistake. It was the boy that she had rescued from the Minotaur.

(Defeated, a Silverback……?)

Completely unqualified. Although what her Familia members had said was indeed overboard, but in reality, he was still considered a

innocent and novice adventurer.

If what Aizu remembered about this boy, to him, currently the Silverback should be an insurmountable existence.

(……Congratulations.)

Once she noticed this, this sentence appeared from her mouth.

It was just a word of blessing to the growth of that boy, who was laughed at by many and was crying tears filled with remorse.

(……)

Aizu was not interested in how he defeated the monster, but.

Aizu thought that no matter what, she stills needs to see him once and apologize.

× × ×

BANG, The large door rang as it closed.

Bell rushed over in a panic while looking at Seal, who just came out from the room.

“S…Seal-san, Kami-sama……?”

“Nothing is wrong, just a bit of fatigue.”

“F…Fatigue……Eh, Could this mean?”

“Yes, it will not endanger her life.”

258

The time was already evening.

Bell was currently inside ＜Mistress of Abundance＞. After what had happened, Bell met up with Seal by chance, who was coming back from Monster Festival. Under her persuasion, they transported the unconscious Hestia over here.

The commotion caused by the Monster Festival had completely calmed down. The loss was minimized because of the rapid response

of Ganesha's Familia and other organizations including the guild. Not only that, but there seemed to be no casualties or even injuries. So it can be said that the person who had the most serious injury was Bell.

The person that caused the commotion had not been caught. They did not even have the slightest lead on who it was. The Ganesha's Familia's and the guild members that came into contact with the criminal, seemed to

have had magic casted on them by a magician because they could not remember anything. Thus, they do not know what the criminal did and the matter ended this way.

After allowing Hestia to sleep, Bell was talking with Seal on this wooden corridor on the second floor of the bar.

"That's really great……She suddenly fell down, so I was extremely worried."

"Fufu, it must be hard for you, Bell-kun."

Facing Bell, who was almost out of strength, Seal smiled slightly and apologized using a gentle voice.

"I am really sorry about today. Because I forgot to bring my purse, so that I caused you to be involved in this disaster……"

"N…No, there is absolutely no such thing. It was absolutely not Seal-san's fault!"

Looking at the frantic Bell, Seal-san also began to feel extremely guilty, but then her face slowly relaxed. Bell, seeing the change in her face, also felt at ease.

"But, in this commotion, there were rumors spreading amongst the people on the street. A certain adventurer, isn't that the courageous Bell-kun."

"Eh……"

"I also believe this, in fact, I saw the battle scene of Bell-kun against the monster……"

“It was nothing courageous. I was constantly being hit so I fled everywhere. In front of that monster, I did not have the courage to fight ……”

Bell seemed to be embarrassed while he explained the situation, his shoulders also constantly shrugged.

Seal, seeing Bell like this, could not help but laugh, her dark gray hair also shook.

“Despite this, weren’t you still cool?”

“Eh?”

“……Although it was somewhat sloppy and rough, but Bell-kun, who

courageously stood against the monster……completely captivated me.”

While she said this, she suddenly approached and used her hand to cover the ear, and whispered these gentle words through my ears. Bell could not help but widen his eyes.

Seal left the side of Bell, her face seemed to be dyed red due to the sunlight, and following was a charming smile.

“The shop called for my help. So I’ll leave first!”

“Yes, O…Okay……”

“You can go to the bed and relax for a while, that is okay. So Bell-kun, I’ll see you later.”

After witnessing Seal leaving from the corridor, Bell could only tilt his head to the side with a expressionless expression.

“Was I being played……”

The mischievous expression and those fiery pair of eyes. Bell did not know whether or not to believe in it, and tried to quell the heat on his face, then he headed towards Hestia’s room.

I should let her relax for a while longer, looking at the handle of the

door, Bell was silently in a dilemma.

BANG Hearing what seemed to be a blunt sound of falling to the ground, the thing that he was thinking of happened.

“!?”

Bell rushed into the room, what greeted him was the figure of Hestia that seemed to have rolled down from the bed.

Her cheeks was glued to the floor, and it was extremely disgraceful. Perhaps she had fallen directly onto the floor in a bizarre position.

Bell could not help but cry out. He swiftly ran over to her location and kneeled with both legs and held up the petite body.

“K…Kami-sama!? What is it? What had just happened!?”

“Ahhh, Bell-kun……No, I originally planned to stand up, but I could not use any strength……”

“Could not use any strength……I did hear that you were fatigued. What have you been doing the past few days?”

Fuuu, the tiny eyes of the goddess seemed to become hidden.

“Dogeza!”

“What is Dogeza?”

“I bowed down and did not move in front of a stubborn goddess, it lasted for 30

hours……”

“T…Thirty hours……!? Dogeza, could it be some sort of torture?”

“No, it is an ultimate technique. Dogeza is an final ultimate technique……”

Facing Hestia, who seemed to be talking nonsense and was constantly talking about this ultimate technique, Bell could not help but feel cold sweat.

“But why do you have to do such a thing……Didn’t Kami-sama head over to a Banquet!?”

“……This”

“Eh?”

Hestia’s awkward hands reached out to Bell’s waist and took out the pitched-black dagger. Ah, Bell finally understood. It was about this weapon, Bell had never heard Kami-sama explain about it.

How did this dagger come into her hands, he was about to ask when ——He took a deep breathe.

In the corner of the dagger’s sheath, Bell noticed <Ήφαιστος>, a similar Sacred Text that was engraved on it.

——Hephaestus.

In this case, it was needless to ask and he would still understand.

This sign, it should be the same sign that appeared in Hephaestus’s shop that he should not have the opportunity to have in his entire life.

“K…Kami-sama, this is……”

“I’m sorry, I made you worry……But, I, felt that it was painful to just watch. I do not want to feel that as I was dependent …… Just being helped out by someone, it feels extremely uncomfortable.”

Bell’s hand trembled as he held onto the handle of the dagger. Hestia placed the dagger slowly back into its sheath.

When you look at it now, it was a completely black blade.

A dagger that did not have any curvature, compared to the dagger he was using, the qualitative difference could be seen. What was engraved onto the body of the blade was small text, but it was also genuine <Sacred Text>.

From the tip of the blade to the end, it was a dagger that had the same color as Hestia’s hair. It gave off a shining purplish-red light while it was in Bell’s hand, and looked like as if it was a baby breathing.

“I knew. You would always look at the showcase in Hephaestus’s shop numerous times. Although this is not the weapon you want, but this dagger is the only one in this world, isn’t it amazing?”

“This, but, this……Isn’t Hephaestus’s weapons extremely expensive……Money, How……!?”

“Don’t worry, I already discussed it with her.”

“Not only his voice, even Bell’s eyes were slightly erratic.

Hestia still had a tired expression, but looking at Bell made her felt at ease and smiled at him.

“Didn’t you want to become stronger?”

“!”

“Didn’t I say I will help you? At least this point, I can still help.”

“T……This……”

“Regardless of who, regardless of what, I am the person who wanted to become your strength the most. After all……I really like you.”

“……!”

Bell’s eyes began to spill large tears.

Hestia’s face was also embarrassed to the extent where it turned pink, but it still had an overflowing smile.

“No matter what, I will let you rely on me. It isn’t a problem. No matter what they say, I am still your Goddess, right?”

Bell already could not endure it.

He broke down in tears and hugged Hestia tightly.

“Kami-sama!!”

Like a child, Bell continued to hug the petite body.

“Hey Hey, the blade is pulled out, it is very dangerous right?”

Her chest felt very warm. As she was saying this, Hestia also placed her hands behind Bell's back.

Accepting the hug that came from Bell, who was a lot larger than her, and buried her fingers into his snow-like hair. Sounds of sobbing and crying rang in her ears.

To this boy, that was behaving badly and crying because he couldn't conceal his own feelings, Hestia loved him dearly more than anyone else.

(Ahh, Very good……)

Although it was a little slow, but being slow doesn't mean it isn't smart. But to this boy, she was still a goddess. Although it was because of his recklessness that he became this strong.

However, if it was for this child, being slightly reckless isn't that bad right?

Just when Hestia, who was enjoying this happy occasion, thought about this.

(At least we are both mutual in our love.)

Finally, in the end, she gorgeously made a mistake again.

ステイタス

Lv. 1

力：E 403　耐久：H 199　器用：E 412　敏捷：D 521　魔力：I 0

《魔法》

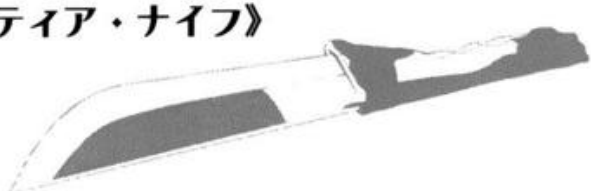
【】

《スキル》

【憧憬一途（リアリュ・フレーゼ）】

・早熟する。
・願想（おもい）が続く限り効果持続。
・願想の丈により効果向上。

《ヘスティア・ナイフ》



・35年ローン420回払い。
・【ヘファイストス・ファミリア】のバベル支店で強制労働が確約されている。
　ヘスティア潤身の買物。
・「駆け出し冒険者に持たせる一級品」ということで頭を抱えたヘファイストスが、
　悩みに悩んで考案した作品。
・ヘスティアの髪と『神血（イコル）』、彼女自身の【神聖文字】を編み込んだ特殊製法。
　ナイフ自体に【ステイタス】が発生している。
・装備者の成長――【経験値】の獲得――と連動して強化されていく。生きた武器。
・ヘスティアの恩恵を受けた者しか使いこなせない。
　それ以外の者が扱うとガラクタに成り下がる。
・装備者が『最強』になった時、このナイフも事実上『最強』になる。
　ヘファイストス曰く『邪道の武器』。

Strength: E 403 Endurance: H 199 Dexterity: E 412 Agility: D 521 Magic: I 0

＜Magic＞

[ ]

＜Skill＞

[Single-Minded Pursuit]

□ Accelerates Growth.

□ Effects last as long as his feelings are unchanged

□ Effects are determined by the strength of his feelings

＜Hestia's Dagger＞

□ 35 Year Loan, 420 Installment.

□ A signed contract to be forced to work at the ＜Hephaestus's Familia＞'s Babel branch. An item that Hestia purchased no matter the cost.

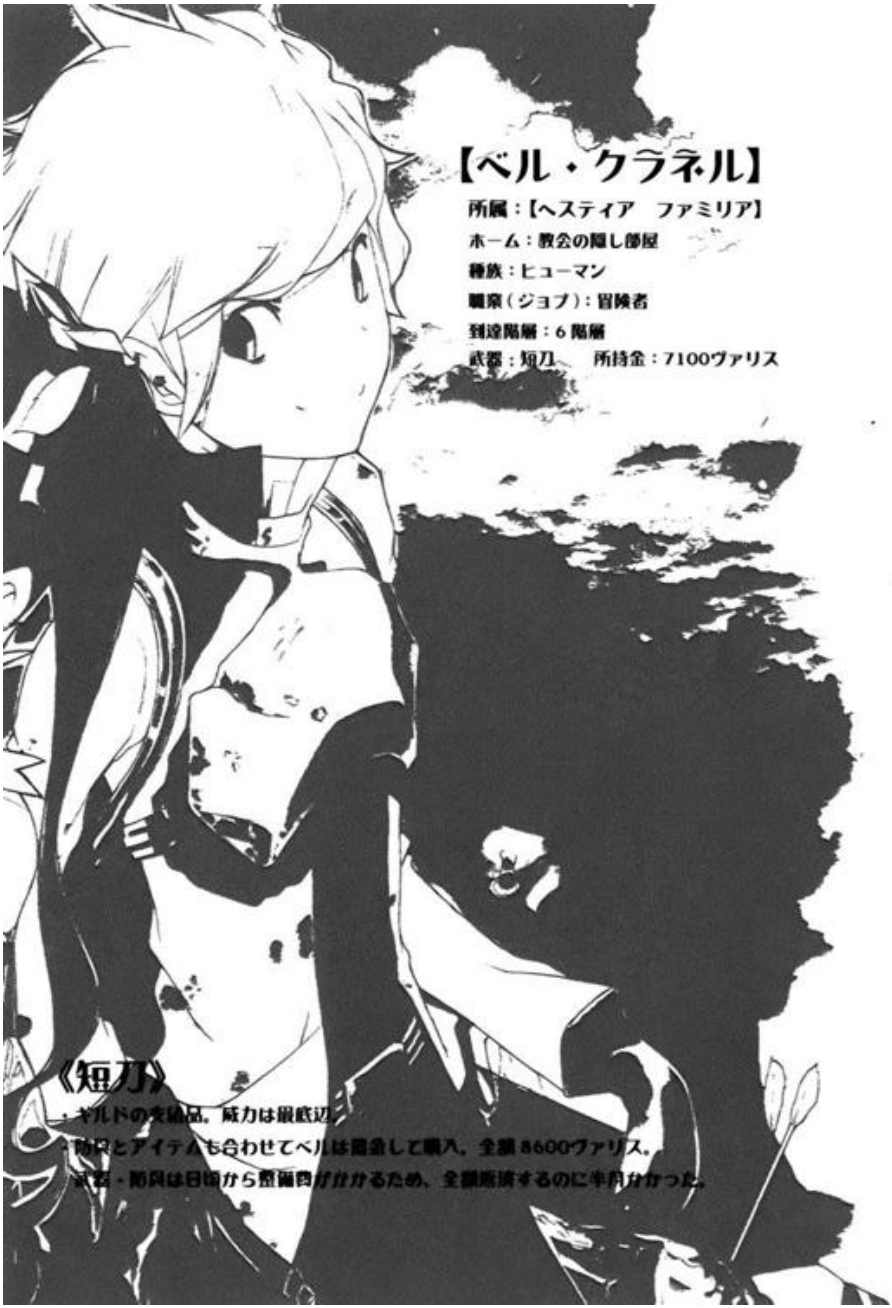
□ A creation by Hephaestus, who had designed it after many troubles, in order ＜For it to be a top-class creation prepared for a rookie Adventurer＞.

□ Using a special method, infusing Hestia's hair, ＜God's Blood＞ and her own ＜Sacred Text＞, allowing the dagger itself to generate a ＜Status＞.

□ Will follow the equipment user and grow——Obtaining ＜Experience Point＞—— And be enhanced. A weapon with life.

□ Only people who received Hestia's Grace is able to use it. When others use it, it will become garbage. When the equipment user reached the ＜Strongest＞ State, it will also cause the dagger to become the ＜Strongest＞ as well.

Hephaestus called this as a ＜Dishonest Weapon＞


【ベル・クラネル】
所属：【ヘスティア　ファミリア】
ホーム：教会の隠し部屋
種族：ヒューマン
職業（ジョブ）：冒険者
到達階層：6階層
武器：短刀　　所持金：7100ヴァリス
《短刀》
・ギルドの支給品。威力は最底辺。
・防具とアイテムも合わせてベルは借金して購入。全額8600ヴァリス。
・武器・防具は日頃から整備費がかかるため、全額返済するのに半月かかった。

[Bell Cranel]

□ Affiliation: [Hestia's Familia]

□ Headquarters: A Church's Hidden Room

□ Race: Human

□ Class: Adventurer

□ Achieved Floor: 6th Floor

□ Weapon: Dagger

□ Money: 7100 Varisu

＜Dagger＞

□ Guild supply item. It's strength is at the lowest level.

□ Bell bought it together with the defense equipment. Total Cost 8600 Varisu.

Because weapon and defense equipment requires money to maintain, thus he spent half a month to clear his debt.

エピローグ　ファミリア・ミィス

Epilogue: Familia's Myth

That's right, It was just the moment when Hestia failed to recruit a person for her [Familia] for the 50th time.

Within Hestia's crestfallen eyes, she saw a small and slightly lonely silhouette.

Given the appearance from his silhouette, it was of human race. A boy with straight silver hair seemed to be depressed as well, just like Hestia. It seems that he had been wandering through the street without aim.

Because Hestia became interested in him, so she decided to follow him for a bit.

In order to be separated for by a certain distance and yet not be noticed, she hid herself within the shadow of buildings, made as few as noise possible at every footstep while *tetetete* running fast behind him.

Apparently, the boy was looking to enter a [Familia]. When he knocked at the door of a [Familia] he was turned down immediately at the front door. Based on what Hestia counted, there has already been 10 [Familia] that turned him down for a meeting. After being rejected, the boy powerlessly sat down.

While he dimly looked at the crowd on the street, he was also hopelessly searching for the place where he belong. If this state had continued, this loneliness would lead to death, that was what Hestia thought as she saw his pale face.

"Oi, you there. Because the back alley is dangerous, isn't it better not to enter?"

It was to made him notice her, so she had to speak.

The boy who tried to enter the alley, turned around with a surprised look on his face, then looked down towards Hestia.

"T-thank you… err, what about you? You're alone in this place, are you lost?"

"… Aren't you the one who has eyes like a lost child?"

Their first encounter wasn't very pleasant. This situation didn't only occur just once, almost anyone who met Hestia for the first time, treated her like a child.

After he knew the truth about Hestia's identity, the boy repeated apologized with flustered face.

"He~. Then you already have been rejected by [Familia] one after another."

"Y-yes…"

Hestia, who acted dumb to the circumstance, gave *a chirari* to steal glance at the depressed boy.

His appearance was unreliable indeed, it seemed like no problem at his personality.

Or rather it was likable.

In a good and bay way, This boy is still a child, it can already be seen through this little communication.

"Ahh~. Mmmm~… Truthfully. I also can't find anyone to become my [Familia]

this time. What a coincidence isn't it, I also wanted an Adventurer for my [Familia] if possible. That, yeah, well…."

While Hestia talked about her incompetence of failing to even get 1 Adventurer to become a member, with a unpleasant voice that seemed to be from desperation.

The boy, jumped up as soon as the story was heard.

"Let me in! Please let me in!"

"… A…are you sure? Do you seriously want to become my [Familia] even it's just currently 1 member?"

"It's good, it is no problem at all! Rather is it okay to let the likes of me to join?"

From there it was quick. The introduction of each other was finished between them, The [Familia] of Hestia and Bell was founded.

“Alright, Bell-kun, come with me! I will do the ceremony for joining a [Familia].”

“Yes!”

271

The two of them arrive in front of a shabby bookstore.

There is an old human inside of store, when Hestia was seen to enter, the old man with a short white beard approached.

“Yaa, Hestia-chan. If it’s about becoming a member of [Familia] I am going to refuse.”

“That’s not it! Ojii-san. Please let me borrow the library of second floor!”

“Yes-yes, I’ll lend it to you. If you want to read the book, please return the book to the original space.”

She ran up the stairs while pulling Bell’s hand, the smell of old wood had drifted from room.

Filled bookshelves occupied all sides of the room, there was even a mountain of book piled up in front of a shelf.

Hestia who didn’t have money to buy a book has spent all her time in this library thanks to the owner’s goodwill.

“Well, take off your clothes, then sit here.”

“M-my clothes?”

“Oh, it’s alright just to take off your top. From now on you will be engraved by my [Grace].”

Hestia happily begins to engrave Bell with the [God's Grace].

She had chosen this location to give the [Grace} for her first children, this was decided a long time ago. For me who like books, this will be the perfect place as a starting point.

The beginning of her story was to be surrounded by many books. Is it not an appropriate location.

"Bell-kun, did you ever wondered, why did you want to become an Adventurer?"

"A-actually, since I was little I longing to have a fated encounter in [The Sacred Labyrinth Dungeon]…!”

272

“Encounter-? The other party is a woman right? For such a thing, you wanted to become an Adventurer?”

“I…It is not such a thing! Having an encounter is great, it’s a Man’s Romance!

Even my grandfather who raised me said [Harem is the best!] “

“You, it’s absolutely a mistake from the relative that took care of you.”

After a while, [God's Grace] finished been engraved.

In front of Hestia’s eyes, many character with jet-black color been engraved on the back of Bell. Hestia then gently stroke his back along with the character.

It was done with close resemblance to one page of an ancient book, one enumeration of sacred character.

It was a book called [Status].

(You, I wonder what kind of story will you create)

[Experience Points]… It is to say that the experience accumulated will be recorded within the [Status], so to speak,it is a record for those who received [Grace]. These children will allow their God to evaluate what they see and hear, then that is recorded into their back.

Wherever Bell walk his path, his story. Hestia will continue to write it.

“…Now, Bell-kun. Let’s work hard. The beginning of Our [Familia] will start from here.”

“Y, Yes!”

Golden light shone through the window, illuminating the room where dust been piled up.

In this crowded room, the unspeakable crowd of books seemed to bless the beginning of a new story.

An empty story was carved on the back of Bell, seeing this, Hestia smiles happily.

Afterwards, his story will written down by her own hand.

273

It is a story that the children will weave.

In the past, Adventurer's stories has repeatedly occur.

That was what the Gods have kept a watch on, A Story about a Hero's Myths.

This, The boy walks, The Goddess records.

＜A Familia's Story＞

Disclaimer

This work is a fan translation for free preview only, under no circumstances would you be allowed to take this work for commercial activities or for personal gain.

This work is licensed under Yen Press, please support the author by buying the original work when available in your area/language.